



THE INDEPENDENT

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STICKERS

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Anelka spares Arsenal's blushes

SPORT

Straw faces huge Pinochet revolt

JACK STRAW will be warned today that he faces a rebellion by 120 Labour MPs if he allows General Augusto Pinochet to return to Chile to face trial in his own country.

The Home Secretary, who faces the most agonising decision of his career, came under strong pressure yesterday from the Chilean government for the 83-year-old former dictator to be brought to justice in his homeland.

They are considering buying a second house in Manchester for £10,000, completing a full circle of moves spanning several continents. His advice: "Don't worry about the future, it's about doing things."

GINETTA VENDRELL

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

missed as a "smokescreen" by the MPs, who warned that General Pinochet would never be tried if he were allowed to return home.

This week Mr Straw will weigh up representations on the case made before today's deadline. He has until 11 December to decide whether the general should face extradition to Spain, which wants to

prosecute him for murder and torture during his regime, after last week's ruling by the law lords that the general does not enjoy immunity from prosecution.

The evidence submitted to Mr Straw includes a strong worded plea from the all-party Parliamentary Human Rights Group, which has been passed to *The Independent*. Most of its 150 members are Labour MPs, and its letter will leave the Home Secretary in no doubt

that he would alienate a huge section of Labour Party opinion if he allowed General Pinochet to return to Chile.

Although the Commons would have no opportunity to block Mr Straw's decision, one former minister said yesterday: "He would never be forgiven if he gets this wrong. For a lot of us, he would be finished."

In their letter to Mr Straw, the MPs said: "Claims have been made that General Pinochet would face prosecu-

tion if he were allowed to return to Chile. These cases stand no chance of success given the constitutional blocks provided by the amnesty laws. The Supreme Court of Chile has twice upheld the amnesty laws."

The group dismissed suggestions that the General should be allowed home because of his age: "It has become clear that the primary reason for his visit to the UK was to conduct business. Many of his

victims and their families are also old and frail, and have spent many years trying to obtain justice. Such humanitarian grounds should be applied to them also."

The MP's dismissed the claim that Chile's democracy would be undermined if General Pinochet faced trial abroad, pointing to opinion polls which showed that 82 per cent of Chileans supported the extradition proceedings.

Chile will today submit a formal request for General Pinochet to be brought to justice in his own country, a move that has clear attractions for British ministers worried that extraditing him to Spain would jeopardise Britain's diplomatic and trade links with Chile.

Alternatively, Mr Straw could halt the process now under the 1988 Extradition Act, which allows exemptions on compassionate grounds or if offences are political.

In interviews in Britain, Jose Miguel Insulza, the Chilean Foreign Minister, suggested that the general would face trial by a state prosecution rather than the 14 private actions under way. He added: "Of course you can never say, 'We assure you he is going to jail'."

Grandees tell Blair to stop stalling on Europe

TONY BLAIR is urged today by a powerful all-party alliance of senior politicians to come off the fence on Europe by declaring that Britain will definitely join the single currency.

In a letter to *The Independent*, they warn the Prime Minister he will be in a stronger position to resist moves to harmonise taxes across Europe if Britain makes a commitment to join the euro. The signatories include Kenneth Clarke, the former chancellor; Lord Howe of Aberavon, former foreign secretary; Lord Hattersley, Labour's former deputy leader; and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a former Labour chancellor and one-time SDP leader.

Their intervention comes amid a growing cabinet debate on whether the Government should strike a more positive note about the single currency when it is launched by 11 other European Union countries in less than five weeks. Some ministers want the National Changeover Plan to be published in January to change the Government's policy from being one of "if" Britain joins to "when" - but Mr Blair is not yet convinced.

Today's letter from officers of the European Movement will strengthen the hand of the ministers who support early entry, including Gordon Brown, the Chancellor and Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

"In or out of EMU, the impact of a euro zone five times the size of our economy will be enormous," says the group. "The opportunities are clear. The danger is that by self-imposed exclusion our competitiveness will suffer from increasing economic instability and higher interest rates and that our political influence on major economic decisions in Europe will be gradually eroded."

They warn Mr Blair that Britain's voice "must be at the centre, not the margin" of EU

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policy-making on key issues such as tax harmonisation, exchange rates and whether tough rules on budget deficits should be relaxed to combat unemployment.

The group welcomed last week's similar call by 114 senior British businessmen. Another 150 businessmen have since backed their statement and Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of Bupa, who organised the initiative, said: "The vast majority of British firms want Britain to join a successful single currency because it will mean a much more stable economic future for Britain."

Sir Leon Brittan, the vice-president of the European Commission, echoed the warning that Britain would have a better chance of resisting a common EU tax policy if it were signed up to the euro. "If Britain were actually in the single currency, it would be able quite easily to stop this head of steam," he said.

Joyce Quin, Minister for Europe, dismissed reports that Britain could be forced to raise its tax rates as "scare stories".

But William Hague accused the Government of misleading the public. He said Mr Brown signed documents on tax harmonisation with his EU counterparts and then told people he would block the moves when he returned home.

"This is going beyond the acceptable limits of political and economic union," Mr Hague said.

Mr Blair's caution about adopting more positive line will be reinforced by an opinion poll yesterday showing the number of people supporting EU membership has risen from 77 per cent in 1991 to 85 per cent last year. The survey by British and Social European Attitudes found that 28 per cent favoured withdrawal from Europe.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Secondary Schools league tables in a 28-page supplement

PLUS CHRIS WOODHEAD, EDUCATION'S CHIEF INSPECTOR, ON WHAT MAKES A GOOD SCHOOL

THE BEST WRITING IS IN 'THE INDEPENDENT' EVERY WEEK: DEBORAH ROSS, BILL BRYSON, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DONALD MACINTYRE, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD

Pull back on Lords, peer tells Hague

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

A SENIOR Tory peer warned the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, yesterday to pull back from his "gladiatorial battle" with the Government over reform of the House of Lords.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, a constitutional expert and the chairman of NatWest bank, criticised Tory plans to use the party's big majority in the Lords to disrupt government Bills, including plans to strip the 750 hereditary peers of their right to sit and vote.

A Conservative Central Office briefing note, leaked to *The Independent* last week, revealed that the Tories were planning a "zero tolerance" policy towards "bad legislation".

But Lord Alexander said: "I thought zero tolerance was a phrase used in dealing with crime. I would very be disappointed if anything like that crept in, in the Lords fulfilling what is a very important role of evaluating where legislation could be improved."

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme* that Labour's strongest argument for Lords reform was the in-built Tory majority under the present system. "That argument means there must be change," he said.

Lord Alexander warned that the Tories could "play into Labour's hands" if their peers continued to block the Bill to bring in proportional representation for next June's elections to the European Parliament.

Although he would prefer a "big bang" Lords reform which went wider than the hereditaries, he warned Mr Hague: "I think the chances of that will diminish every time that a gladiatorial contest between

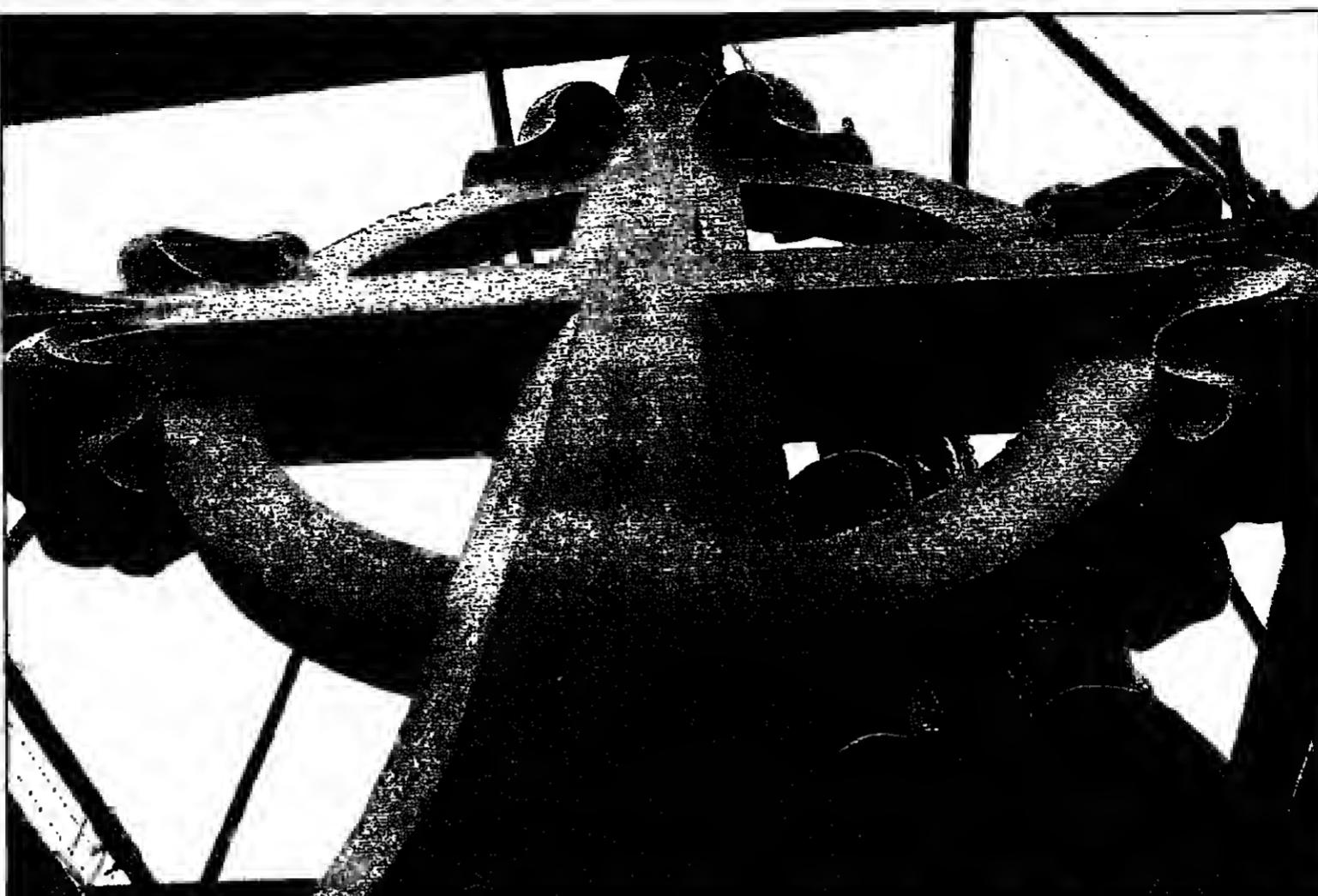
the Government and the House of Lords surfaces."

The European Elections Bill will be rushed through the Commons this week and Lord Alexander said that peers, who voted against it five times during the last parliamentary session, should not spend much more time on what he called "a relatively minor issue".

However, Mr Hague defended his hardline tactics over Lords reform. Interviewed on the same programme, he denied his "zero tolerance" strategy could backfire on the Tories. He insisted that Tony Blair had misjudged the public mood. "I think most people in the country think it's wrong to change the House of Lords without knowing what you're going to change it to," he said. "It fuels the suspicion that what the Prime Minister is really after is to have a House of Cronies... We just won't have an effective second chamber that is able to challenge the government of the day. Sadly, that is probably what he wants."

Buckingham Palace confirmed a report in yesterday's *Independent on Sunday* that the Queen has agreed that members of the Royal Family will lose their historic right to sit and vote in Parliament under the Lords reforms. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent will all lose their seats.

"Formal advice has been received from the Government on reforms and in line with established constitutional practice, the Queen has accepted that advice," a palace spokesman said.



Stonemason Paul Bloomfield putting finishing touches to the new wheel cross, designed by Jason Battie, which will replace an 18th-century cross on the west front gable of Salisbury cathedral in Wiltshire. There will be a topping-out ceremony for the cross on Wednesday Les Wilson

Polish lawyer faces extradition

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE OXFORD university professor whose wife may face extradition to Poland for alleged crimes during the Stalinist era has been released on bail. Mrs Wolinska, a lawyer in Poland during the Stalinist 1950s, if the court issues the arrest warrant, will be followed by an extradition request to the UK.

Mrs Wolinska has described the charges against her as "a shameful pack of absurd lies". She is accused of fabricating evidence against Enn Fielder, a former leader of Poland's non-Communist resistance to the Nazi occupation. Poland's "Armia Krajowa", or national resistance army, was

loathed by the Communist regime because it had kept Moscow at arm's length throughout the Second World War. Fielder was hanged in 1953, after a brief show trial.

Mrs Wolinska has said: "It wasn't my case - I was in the army part of the jurisdiction and Fielder was tried in the civil court." She is accused of signing Fielder's arrest warrant, though she herself says: "I was not there. I did not see the papers." Her husband said yesterday: "Her only involvement in this case was consent. She never had anything to do with the trial."

If the extradition request does go ahead, it could lead to

many similar requests. Whatever the rights or wrongs of Mrs Wolinska's particular case, the question of General Pinochet's extradition seems almost simple, by comparison. The potential extradition of the Chilean dictator could be followed by a long list of other alleged wrongdoers from different countries.

Every town and city in Communist eastern Europe was littered with people who played an active part in executing the sometimes lethal policies of the repressive regime. Many of those people with dubious CVs now live in Britain and other Western countries.

A Home Office spokesman

emphasised yesterday that approval of the extradition request would not be automatic. "A purely political act wouldn't necessarily qualify."

In Poland, many of the regime's worst crimes have been allowed to rest. Police who murdered a pro-Solidarity priest, Jerzy Popieluszko, were prosecuted. But the bloodshed in 1956 and in 1970 has never been legally pursued. In 1981, pro-Solidarity strikers in a Silesian mine were killed; an inquiry is theoretically under way though little has emerged. General Jaruzelski, who ordered the tanks on to the streets in 1981, now lives in almost dignified retirement.

The mother left Guy's wearing a long blue raincoat at around 3am on Friday and is believed by officers to have been seen on nearby Tower Bridge Road later that day.

A 35-year-old woman was last night being held in custody at a south London police station after being arrested in connection with the disappearance.

Anyone with information about the baby, who was last seen wearing a pink hooded jacket and blue romper suit, should contact Detective Inspector Graham Worthington at Deptford CID on 0181-853 1212.

Oxfam Hurricane Appeal

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Daniel Alegria, Oxfam, Nicaragua, November 1998

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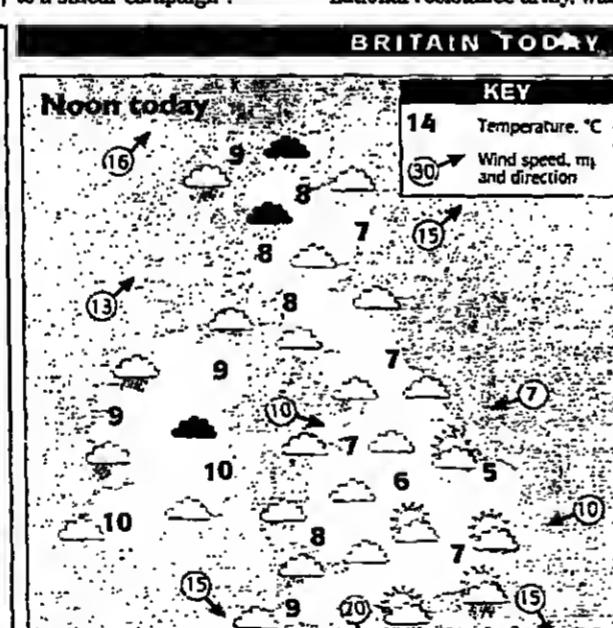
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FORECAST

General situation: South-west England and parts of Wales will be cloudy with light rain. The rest of Wales and most of England will, however, see some sunshine, although it will stay away after a frosty start. Towards the east coast the odd light shower or two will possibly wintry over the hills. The west and north and west-south coast will be mainly dry. The north of Scotland will be bright, while the south will be cloudy with some rain. The south of England will be bright for a while, but colder with spots of rain on the way.

SE & E England, London, E Anglia: Chilly after a frosty start. Some bright sun for a while, then increasing moderate north-easterly. Max temp 9-10°C (53-58°F).

Cent S England, West Midlands, Cheshire: Early fog and frost patches strong, leaving it dry with some sunshine. Light north to north-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

Cent N & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Cloudy in western areas with rain or drizzle dry and brighter to the east. Moderate to fresh north-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

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SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W & N Isles: Overcast with rain and hill fog. Moderate south to south-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeenshire: Cloudy with sporadic light rain. A light westerly wind. Max temp 6-9°C (43-48°F).

N Ireland: Mist but dull with drizzle. Dry in some areas but staying cloudy. Light winds increasing moderate north-westerly. Max temp 9-11°C (46-52°F).

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sunshine, although it will stay away after a frosty start. Some bright sun for a while, then increasing moderate north-easterly. Max temp 9-10°C (53-58°F).

Cent S England, West Midlands, Cheshire: Early fog and frost patches strong, leaving it dry with some sunshine. Light north to north-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

Cent N & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Cloudy in western areas with rain or drizzle dry and brighter to the east. Moderate to fresh north-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

Wales, SW & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Cloudy with some rain or

sunshine, although it will stay away after a frosty start. Some bright sun for a while, then increasing moderate north-easterly. Max temp 9-10°C (53-58°F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W & N Isles: Overcast with rain and hill fog. Moderate south to south-westerly winds. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeenshire

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INA BIFIDA IS STILL
TANCES
EXOLOGY - DOES IT
MEDIA

RALPH MARK STEEL
GEN. SUE ARNOLD
**Police
fear for
missing
baby**

BY CAIRAL NILMO
POLICE SEARCH teams last night secured safety of a five-month-old baby missing for more than a week. Scotland Yard said it was "very concerned" about the child, who was found at 11am on Saturday by her distraught mother, up of Guy's Hospital in Britain. A helicopter and dog search on Saturday found the baby, who was seen by staff at the hospital Friday morning after treatment for a skin condition.

It is understood that he went shopping with his mother on Friday and had not been seen since. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are very concerned for the safety of the baby, who last weekend was very easily taken when her mother left him in the hospital." The baby was reportedly reported missing on Saturday and a full car and boat were searched out. That afternoon, through the night, we became increasingly concerned about the baby's safety and the police have now been informed that the baby is safe and well."

One might suppose Horne's support comes only from extremists who try to force the issue without thought for those they hurt in the process. But in 1994 he caused damage worth millions of pounds to stores on the Isle of Wight before detectives caught him two years later.

At his trial last year the judge described him as an "urban terrorist" while the police said he was "dangerous, ruthless and absolutely committed". The sentence was the harshest ever given to an animal rights protester, despite the judge's acknowledgement that Horne had no intention of endangering human life.

"We are just one step away from Barry," said the scriptwriter Carla Lane, an animal rights activist who sent a message of support. "You get to the point when you cannot sleep at night because of the images of what you have seen."

"You will never find people more committed or dedicated. And yet everybody in the media



Protesters attempting to storm the gates of a farm owned by the Shamrock company in Small Dole, West Sussex, yesterday – the firm allegedly breeds monkeys for research purposes; and (right) Barry Horne, 46, who has now gone 53 days without food, in jail, in an attempt to force a ban on animal experiments

Andrew Hasson/South West News

is so obsessed with what Barry has done rather than why he did it."

For the record, what Horne did was this. Based in a Birmingham bedsit, the father of two launched a series of incendiary attacks on shops throughout the south and west of England. In 1994 he caused damage worth millions of pounds to stores on the Isle of Wight before detectives caught him two years later.

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Horne, who has staged hunger strikes before only to call them off, appears determined this time to take his protest all the way.

In a letter written in the hospital wing at Full Sutton, he said: "It's harder this time, but please don't read into it that my resolution is in any way not 100 per cent. In fact, the reverse is true... there is no longer any room for compromise. As such, my resolve to win is higher than

anytime. I am determined to see it through and win the victory for the animals in the labs that they deserve."

Even if he resumes eating, doctors who recently visited him said his chances of survival would be less than 70 per cent. "Barry is very frightened. He is dreading that this might be the end," said a fellow campaigner, Tony Humphries, after visiting Horne yesterday. "It is devastating. Those of us who have seen him regularly have seen him deteriorate, but for those who come every few weeks it is particularly hard."

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Judge appeals to find girls taken by foster parents

A HIGH Court judge has taken the unusual step of appealing to the public to help to find two young sisters who disappeared with their foster parents 10 weeks ago.

Mrs Justice Hogg spoke yesterday of her anxiety over the "sad plight" of Jade and Hannah Bennett, saying she was "very worried for the safety and well-being of these children".

She said there had been several reported sightings of the girls, three of which were in the Irish Republic, since they vanished with their foster parents, Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley.

The judge spoke out after appeals from the police, the children's natural mother and relatives of the Bramleys had brought no response.

The Bramleys, of Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, were known to have been distressed after their application to adopt Jade, five, and Hannah, three, was turned down and courts rejected their appeal against the decision.

The 34-year-old postal work-

BY JANE HUGHES

er and his 35-year-old wife, who had no children of their own, had been warned that they might lose the children and were due to meet social workers to discuss the girls' future when they disappeared, taking their passports and blue Honda Concerto.

Exactly why the couple were deemed unsuitable to adopt remains unclear. Cambridgeshire social services revealed only that the Bramleys were "unable to offer the special home that [the children] so much needed", despite being on the list of approved foster parents.

But the lengths to which the couple have gone to keep the girls they have cared for since March shows just how strong their attachment to the children had become. Indeed, the Bramleys had earlier told the girls' natural mother, Jacqueline Bennett, they were "so happy they had two beautiful children they could never have had".

In an emotional appeal to the

Bramleys after their disappearance, Ms Bennett, a 24-year-old cleaner, said she had put up her daughters for adoption to give them a better start in life. "I know they've done what they have done because they love Jade and Hannah," she said. "I cannot blame them, but I just want my children back."

She criticised social services for not removing her daughters immediately if they thought the children weren't being looked after properly.

Mrs Justice Hogg said she was concerned that the girls be found as quickly as possible. "They have been missing for nearly three months and the court has no means of knowing whether their health and educational needs are being met," she said.

"Someone knows where they are, or someone has seen them. I beseech that person to come forward with whatever information he or she has, so we can find these two little girls."

Ms Bennett had asked the



Jade, five, and Hannah, three, who have vanished with Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley



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Tougher guidelines on care standards

IN INSPECTORS ARE to be authorised to check on standards of care in state homes for young people and the elderly, and will have powers to close homes, according to tough new guidelines published by the Government today.

In a White Paper on social services, the Government is proposing to introduce regional commissions to take over the inspection of homes from local authorities. These commissions will enforce standards of care in all residential homes.

The Government's proposed measures are intended to address continued failure to detect cruelty in care homes.

The new standards come after three people were charged over allegations of neglect at an Essex care home for children and vulnerable adults. The man and two women, who have been bailed to appear before Chelmsford magistrates in March, were among five people arrested last week as part of an inquiry at the Old Convent, Bicknacre, near Chelmsford.

To coincide with today's White Paper, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has released a report accusing child protection agencies of failing children in their care because of poor communication.

According to the NSPCC, most cases of organised child abuse are only uncovered by accident because not enough information is shared by those whose job it is to protect children. The charity is calling for changes in the way paedophile rings are investigated. The NSPCC calls for the introduction of specialist intelligence gathering techniques and joint investigations. Look

IN BRIEF

Scots to attack mink colonies

A CONSORTIUM of Scottish landowners and sporting estates is trying to eradicate wild mink from the Western Isles. Mink Eradication Scheme - Hebrides (Mes) aims to clear the predators from the rich nesting grounds of waders, sea birds and ducks in the Outer Hebrides. Mes is to monitor mink numbers before starting operations to control them before the birds breed next year.

Pub gas leak kills women guests

TWO WOMEN in their twenties died yesterday and six other people were taken to hospital after being poisoned by carbon monoxide while staying at a country pub. A gas heating boiler started leaking at The Crown Inn in Wentnor, on the slopes of the Long Mynd in Shropshire, emergency services said.

Brother dies in duplicate plunge

A YOUNG man fell to his death from a motorway bridge yesterday - just weeks after his brother died in a similar accident. A Strathclyde Police spokesman said Andrew McKay, 21, appeared to have fallen on to the road after sitting on a handrail. His brother David, 17, died after an accident at the same Glasgow site on 3 October.

One lottery ticket wins £14m

ONE ticket-holder won more than £14m in Saturday's National Lottery rollover jackpot draw. The winning numbers were 4, 25, 26, 30, 37 and 45; bonus number 46.

Horlick's daughter missed out on leukaemia cures



Nicola Horlick with Georgina, 12, who died on Friday

HAD NICOLA Horlick's 12-year-old daughter Georgina been born now, her chances of surviving cancer would have been far greater; the director of the Cancer Research Campaign said yesterday.

Professor Gordon McVie said that treatment for child leukaemia was one of the big medical success stories of recent years. The survival rate for children with the disease has risen to as much as eight in ten. Yesterday it was revealed that Georgina Horlick had lost

BY CLARE GARNER

her nine-year battle against leukaemia on Friday. Her mother, who has managed funds worth billions, said in an interview shortly before her daughter died: "I get so agitated when people go on about success and wealth. It's all completely irrelevant because I'd much rather have Georgie's health. It's something that all the brainpower, all the money you have... nothing can put it right."

Within the past five years, it has become common practice to give children suffering from leukaemia a high dose of drugs and a bone-marrow transplant within a year of going into remission.

However, nine years ago, when Georgina was diagnosed, doctors tended to treat the disease with chemotherapy, but gave no follow-up drugs or bone-marrow transplant once the cancer cells had disappeared. "We know from experience and Georgina Horlick is a good example - that there may be the

odd leukaemia cell lurking around the body after the chemotherapy. If we don't get every single cell out the leukaemia will come back and you have to start all over again. The cells are resistant to conventional drugs then, so it's quite a task."

Another important factor is the quality of drugs that were available when Georgina was first diagnosed, compared with those available now, he said.

Georgina, Mrs Horlick's eldest child, relapsed in 1995 and once again began chemotherapy. By the beginning of this year, however, it was apparent that more drastic action was required. Six months ago she had a bone marrow transplant to try to replace the mutated blood cells.

However, the transplant left her susceptible to illness and she died of a lung infection on Friday at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.

Mrs Horlick, 37, who entitled her autobiography: *Can You Have It All?*, became the City's

most famous woman after she attempted to overturn her sacking from Morgan Grenfell Asset Management in January 1997 for alleged disloyalty.

She once recounted the story of a car-park attendant who worked close to Great Ormond Street. "He told me, 'Mrs Horlick, I am a poor man and you are a rich woman. But I think really I am richer than you because my children are healthy.'

"I said to him, 'You are quite right, it's nothing to do with money.'

TV and sports idols being used to sell steroid-producing tablets

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

STARS of the *Gladiators* television series and the American football player Joe Theisman are among sports stars being used to promote a new wave of tablets and food replacements claimed to boost muscle development without breaking rules on steroids.

The products are part of the growing market on which Britons will spend £20m this year. But although nearly all of them are legal, some are banned under Olympic rules because they contain chemicals that produce steroids in the body. One product, made by the United States company EAS, has been banned from sale in the United Kingdom because it contains a chemical called yohimbe, which speeds the metabolism like an amphetamine.

Medical experts have raised doubts that the unbanned products would have any positive effect for users who are not athletes in training.

The *Gladiators* stars Hunter and Rhino appear in promotional literature for Maximuscle, a company based in north London that sells products it claims are "for advanced body builders". Some of them are banned under International Olympic Committee (IOC) rules.

In the US, EAS pays Theisman to appear in pamphlets for its range of food-derived products, touting on his huge reputation as a legendary - if ageing - quarterback.

Although it is legal to sell the products in the UK, some carry warnings that they should not be taken by people under 21 or those who have medical conditions.

Britons buy huge quantities of "food supplements" claimed to boost brainpower and muscle growth - although Olympic



'Gladiators' star Rhino flexing his muscles. He and his colleague Hunter appear together on Maximuscle's literature selling products 'for advanced body builders'

doctors say most of the products help only top athletes doing specialised training.

The new products, costing up to £10 a packet, are aimed at the growing number of fitness-conscious people who exercise regularly but think that professional athletes eat or drink "secret formulas" that give them their edge.

Consumers are thus turning to powders or mixes promising ingredients such as "glutamine precursors", "cell-volumising compounds" and "nutrients which support the formation

and function of excitatory neurotransmitters".

But doctors advising the British Olympic team say that even products such as creatine

- a protein naturally found in meat that has been shown to have an effect on training - are useful in only a tiny number of situations. The others, they say, do not enhance athletic performance - and if they did, they would be banned by the IOC. None of them is.

Retailers of the products insist that ordinary people can benefit from using them. "Sports

nutrition is an embryonic market which is highly specialised at the moment," said Arnold Ferrier, chief executive of The Sports Nutrition Company, which markets products made by EAS. "But there are possibilities for extending it beyond weight training, where people are looking for muscle development, and into the mainstream. Really, it's for anybody concerned about developing their physique who spends time at the gym or runs."

EAS has a variety of products whose potential benefits

are couched in a mixture of bewildering scientific language and careful caveats. Its Myoplex Lite line, for example, is described as containing "a proprietary protein blend" with ion-exchanged whey protein as well as soy protein isolates, which may support the metabolism as well as growth of lean muscle mass, especially during a low-calorie diet or intense training cycle.

The products are all concentrated or refined forms of chemicals that occur naturally in various foods: fatty acids,

amino acids, proteins and trace metals such as selenium. The products do not have to pass toxicity tests because they are made from foods, and are not marketed as medicines or drugs. Thus EAS cannot make definite claims about their effects; that would call for expensive, and time-consuming clinical trials.

Creatine is an exception, he said, but for particular uses. "It has been shown to enhance recovery after repetitive sprints. If you do five or six 10-second sprints with less than one minute's rest in between each, you will be less fatigued when it comes to the last sprint. But it's that specific. For the vast majority of sports these products there is no evidence that using them makes

athletes any better than a balanced diet tailored to their needs."

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Notice to customers of Halifax International (Jersey) Limited.

Halifax International (Jersey) Limited announces revised interest rates effective from 1st December 1998.

BALANCE	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. CURRENT	ANNUAL INTEREST GROSS P.A. FROM 01/12/98	MONTHLY INTEREST GROSS P.A. FROM 01/12/98
HALIFAX PREMIUM INTERNATIONAL			
£100,000+	7.70%	7.15%	6.93%
£50,000+	7.65%	7.10%	6.88%
£25,000+	7.40%	6.90%	6.69%
HALIFAX DEPOSIT INTERNATIONAL			
£100,000+	7.35%	6.80%	6.60%
£50,000+	7.15%	6.60%	6.41%
£25,000+	7.05%	6.55%	6.36%
£10,000+	6.60%	6.10%	5.94%
£5,000+	5.80%	5.30%	5.18%

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30th November 1998

Dounreay to get atomic clean-up

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

September. Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, ordered the authority to "get tough" at Dounreay after investigations made 145 safety recommendations.

The authority is determined to resume reprocessing of radioactive waste at the north of Scotland complex despite mounting costs. Reprocessing was halted in 1996 after a leak. Ministers, embarrassed by damning reports on the plant, have refused to allow operations to resume until all safety concerns have been met. In

MILLENNIUM BUG WATCH

AFTER MILLIONS of pounds were spent on raising public awareness of the dangers, ministers are to launch a campaign aimed at damping down growing panic.

The leader of the Commons, Margaret Beckett, is to commission a research team to gauge the level of public concern before a television, poster and leaflet campaign next spring.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds will probably be spent to reassure people that Britain will not fall apart after all when computers fail to recognise the arrival of the year 2000.

The new approach comes after a costly campaign urging companies to be prepared and despite the fact

that two out of five businesses have done nothing to tackle the problem.

A government source blamed the media for alarming people by running scare stories, adding: "What we don't want is people drawing out money because they think that bank computers will go down, or people bulk-buying dried milk because they are worried about dairy-production problems."

JANE HUGHES

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Tokeline 0171 240 8800





Asian (Patrice Naiambana) from the Royal Shakespeare Company's play 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' greeting a guest at Hamleys in London yesterday at celebrations of the centenary of C S Lewis's birth John Vass

Off-peak rail fares set for huge rise

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

PRIVATISED TRAIN companies face another dressing down by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, after it emerged they plan to raise fares by as much as 10 times the rate of inflation in the new year.

The firms are taking advantage of government rules that block raising commuter fares, but allow unlimited increases on certain off-peak and first-class tickets.

Train companies across the country are to announce inflation-busting rises on tickets used by business people and on off-peak fares aimed at leisure and holiday travellers.

The increases could deter people from using trains, frustrating the Government's stated aim of getting people out of cars and on to public transport. However, the industry defend-

ed the move, saying fares had fallen overall since privatisation and that the increases affected a tiny fraction of the number of tickets on offer.

The news of the increases comes just days after the railway industry was summoned for a meeting with Mr Prescott and the Transport minister, John Reid over their poor performance levels and told they would lose their franchises if they did not improve.

Midland Mainline is raising its open first-class return fare

from Kettering to Sheffield by 26 per cent, although it is introducing a new first-class ticket, at a 30 per cent discount, which the company said made the existing fare redundant.

On the politically sensitive West Coast Main Line between London and Glasgow, where passenger complaints run at one for every 100 passenger journeys, there will be rises of up to 19 per cent.

First North Western, which the franchising director reprimanded for cancelling too many trains, has recently raised the single fare on a new service from Manchester to London by 150 per cent, although the company said the fare was always intended as an opening offer.

The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising said train companies could put up prices of only non-regulated tickets - first class, cheap day returns, supersavers and Apex. A spokeswoman said: "On these fares they have a choice to make. Either they can put up fares or they can get more passengers by keeping them down. We know what we would like, but it is a judgement for them."

Commuters are protected from above-inflation fare rises. Increases on 60 per cent of fares - season tickets, savers and standard returns - are pegged at 2.5 per cent.

Commuters into London will see further cuts as fares are linked to performance. Most of

TICKET PRICE INCREASES

Company	Route	Ticket Type	Increase
First North Western	Manchester-London	Single	150%
Midland Mainline	Kettering-Sheffield	First Open	26%
Virgin	London-Birmingham	First Open	19%
Connex	London-Horsham	Open Return	6.4%
Virgin	London-Manchester	Open Return	10%

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Investment in medicines often brings savings in other more costly areas of healthcare and can reduce the length of hospital stays.

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They are one of the best investments Britain can make.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DY



THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

A pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

NOTICE TO C&G BORROWERS

- C&G's variable mortgage interest rates are to reduce by 0.50% per annum.
- The reduction takes effect on 1 December 1998 for loans where no notice period for rate changes is required.
- For loans where a notice period is required, borrowers have already been sent individual notification.
- For loans in our annual instalment review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 1999.
- This notice does not apply to new variable rate loans which started on or after 10 November 1998 as they are already on the new rate. In addition, it does not apply to borrowers whose mortgage rate is currently fixed, nor does it affect those borrowers with a capped-rate mortgage.



Cheltenham & Gloucester

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John Vass

fare
rise

INCREASES

Ticket Type	Increase
Single	150%
First Open	26%
First Return	19%
Open Return	64%
Open Return	10%

field by field into the 10 operators into the 10 which have been published, leading to a rise of only about 1% in the last month. The new fare structure will come into effect between December 1st and January 1st, where a run at the beginning of the year will be increased by 1.5%.

The Association of Travel Agents' spokesman, David Attenborough, said: "The vast majority of fares have risen by less than inflation, ranging from more than 1% to more than 10% over the last few years, and, as government moves show, that contrast is set to continue next year." He said the increases will apply to journeys where there is no competition with motorway services. "The increases are unregulated," he added. "Parliament did not tell us to do it, so we had to do it ourselves."

"We take full responsibility for protecting our customers and ensuring that they get the best value for money," he said. "The new fares were set after extensive consultation with our members."

The £5,000 prize, which is in its third year, is an amalgamation of two long-standing com-

Six line up for lesser-spotted Booker prize



An oystercatcher in a field of buttercups from 'Natural Heartlands', a contender for the BP Natural World Book Prize David Woodfall

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

THINK OF IT as the Green Booker. There won't be quite the hysterical razzmatazz, but there will still be a lot of prestige attached to the winner of Britain's premier environmental book prize, to be announced tomorrow. Six very different volumes are competing for the boost to Christmas sales which comes from winning the BP Natural World Book Prize.

They range from a pocket insect guide to a glossy television series spin-off, from an unusual appeal to go easy on pests to an intimate tour of Britain's wild places, and from a long documentary on coral reefs to the drama of a pair of hawks nesting in the middle of a big city.

The tone of the grand old man of British wildlife is sure of a prominent place in the shops, regardless of whether he scoops the prize tomorrow. Sir David's *The Life of Birds* is the sumptuously produced spin-off of his sumptuous tele-

vision series on bird behaviour. It is expected to be extremely popular.

Rita Schreyer, commercial director of Books Etc, said the company's most successful book-signing session was for Sir David's other spin-off, *Life on Earth*. "He was there all afternoon and signed nearly a thousand copies," she said.

A panel of five judges has chosen a shortlist of six, featuring the work of an eclectic group of authors: a Canadian professor, two American journalists, a brace of British writer-illustrator teams and David Attenborough.

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But not only much-hyped TV-related books about the environment can be massive sellers. Two years ago Richard Mabey's *Flora Britannica*, a magisterial account of Britain's wild flowers and their folklore, which feels like a concrete slab and costs £20, sold about 80,000 copies. It was shortlisted for the first BP Natural World prize.

Could there be another *Silent Spring* hidden in this

year's list, another *Ring of Bright Water*? The chairman of the judges, the environmental journalist Linda Bennett, said they were looking for a book that was "significant work" and, most of all, it had to be accessible.

"We want people to understand more about conservation, so we want them to have lively text, and to read about conservation like they might read exciting, sexy novels," she said.

Exciting and sexy might not be the first adjectives one would apply to *Nature Wars*, Mark Winston's study of pest-control regimes and his conclusion that we should go easier on pests.

But it is a compelling argument and certainly lively, as are

Marie Winn's account of hawks nesting in the heart of New York, *Red-Tails in Love*, and Osha Gray Davidson's documentary on coral reefs, *The Enchanted Braid*.

A new field guide to Britain's dragonflies and damselflies, by Steve Brooks and Richard Lewington, may seem to be the most lightweight contender of all for the BP Natural World Book Prize.

But the slim volume, filling a gap in the literature, is a jewel of a book and the one your correspondent would make the winner. It is informative, authoritative, imaginative, accessible and beautiful.

You don't fancy reading about dragonflies? Pick up this book and you just might change your mind.

THE MAIN CONTENDERS

The Life of Birds by David Attenborough (320pp, BBC Books, £18.99)

The book of the Old Whistler's current television series: a detailed manual of behaviour rather than a twitcher's guide. His descriptions and vivid photographs prove an absorbing combination: a black heron fishing with its wings wrapped around it like a toreador's cloak, a short-toed eagle disgorging a snake it has carried back to its chick.

Sir David Attenborough, 72, is the doyen of British wildlife film-makers. He has been grabbing the attention of viewers since his



The Enchanted Braid [Coming to Terms with Nature on the Coral Reef] by Osha Gray Davidson (269pp, John Wiley £19.99)

Coral reefs, US Senate hearings were told in 1990, may be the first ecosystems to be destroyed by global warming. Three weeks ago

leading coral scientists said unprecedented sea temperatures this year killed vast areas of coral in the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, a warning passionately argued in this book.

Osha Gray Davidson is an American reporter who writes for *The New York Times*, *New Republic* and other journals.



Natural Heartlands by Kenneth Taylor and David Woodfall (144pp, Sutton Hill Press, £24.95)

A full-colour examination of how people affect the ecosystems of natural habitats peculiar to the British Isles. A book that might fit the coffee-table category, so striking are its photographs (by Woodfall), if the words (by Taylor) were not so engaging.

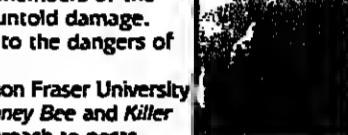
Kenneth Taylor is a naturalist, writer and broadcaster. David Woodfall is an environmental, landscape and wildlife photographer.



Nature Wars [People v Pests] by Mark L. Winston (210pp, Harvard University Press, £15.50)

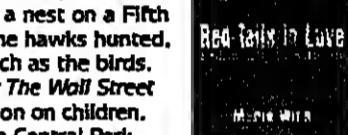
Pests are not creatures for which we may feel much sympathy, but all those cockroaches, weevils and munching moths are members of the natural world. If we declare war on them we can do untold damage. Thirty-five years after *Silent Spring* alerted the world to the dangers of DDT we are still awash with pesticides.

Mark Winston, Professor of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and author of *The Biology of the Honey Bee and Killer Bees*, outlines a new management, not eradication, approach to pests.



Red-Tails in Love [A Wildlife Drama in Central Park] by Marie Winn (320pp, Bloomberg, £13.99)

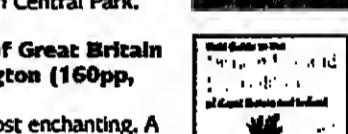
Anyone who has watched kestrels nesting on blocks of flats knows the thrill of birds of prey in the city. It happened to New Yorkers in the spring of 1992 when a pair of red-tailed hawks built a nest on a Fifth Avenue ledge. Birdwatchers in Central Park, where the hawks hunted, became obsessed and the story is about them as much as the birds. Marie Winn writes a column on the natural world for *The Wall Street Journal* and has written books on the effect of television on children. She lives in New York City and spends time each day in Central Park.



Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland by Steve Brooks and Richard Lewington (160pp, British Wildlife Publishing, £18.95)

The slimmest book on the shortlist, but perhaps the most enchanting. A beautiful, technical guide to Britain's 38 resident and 9 migrant species of dragonfly and damselfly, with descriptions, notes and maps.

Steve Brooks became curator of the dragonfly collection at the Natural History Museum. He lives in Hertfordshire. Richard Lewington illustrated *The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland*. He lives and works in Oxfordshire.



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Union condemns elite teacher plan

THE BIGGEST teaching union yesterday condemned as "an insult" government plans to offer a fast-track to training and promotion for an elite group of 1,000 graduates a year.

Plans to offer accelerated promotion to top graduates will be contained in a Green Paper on the future of the teaching profession to be published on Thursday. The paper is expected to include proposals for rewarding high-performing

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

improving schools, as well as introducing a system of performance-related pay aimed at individual teachers.

The National Union of Teachers attacked the proposal, which are designed to help to fill the increasing number of teacher vacancies.

The union has threatened to strike against attempts to link

pay with exam results. Other unions, however, have broadly accepted the principle of linking pay with performance and David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, declared the current system of classroom pay "daffy" and told union leaders opposed to performance-related pay to "get real".

At present there is a £23,000 ceiling on the pay of classroom teachers, with extra pay awarded for extra responsibilities.

Under the fast-track scheme, 1,000 graduates or newly qualified teachers will be offered a salary of £23,000 after four or five years, rather than the seven years staff currently have to wait. They will be expected to rise rapidly to fill management jobs or become advanced skills "super teachers" with salaries of up to £40,000 a year.

The fast-track recruits will undergo a business-style training programme, including time

in several schools and possibly a stint in industry. Special status will be offered to graduates with a good academic record and an ability to enthuse and communicate with children.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the NUT, attacked the proposal. He said: "Every teacher needs proper professional development and to assume that only 1,000 are worth special treatment is an insult to the profession."

But Mr Blunkett said it was vital to provide incentives to attract more good graduates into teaching. He said: "We are going to transform the Three Rs that we have been concentrating on into a new Three Rs, which is Recruitment, Retention and Rewarding good teaching."

Mr Blunkett hinted yesterday that possible measures for performance-related pay could include benchmarks of pupils' performance and measures of the "value added" by teachers.

The government is thought to be considering giving extra money to good and improving schools as well as introducing an element of performance-related pay for all teachers.

But Mr McAvoy said: "We have always made it clear that any attempt to link performance-related pay with pupil achievement is a non-runner and it is totally unacceptable."

Mr Blunkett said he wanted "a break in the traditional ways which are stopping two-thirds of teachers at point nine on the pay scale, which is £23,000, and saying, 'This is daffy and you should be able to progress because you are good at the job, not because you take on management responsibility.'

"I know of no other walk of life where two-thirds of people have a barrier on being able to progress past £23,000 a year."



John Reid, guru to Elton John, sells art collection to 'simplify his life'

JOHN REID, the rock impresario who has parted company with his long-time client Sir Elton John, is to sell works of art estimated at £2m from his homes in London, New York and St Tropez.

The eclectic array of 19th-century art, Old Masters, exotic furniture and sheer kitsch, to be auctioned at Christie's next month, provides a vivid insight into the flamboyant tastes of Reid and the extravagances of the rock'n'roll world – a flamboyance more than equaling that of Reid's client, Sir Elton.

Reid, who is devoting more time to theatrical and film production, said: "I want to shrink the contents of three houses into one as I cruise into my

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

fifties and focus my attention on simpler things. I want to de-clutter my life, make it less fussy and less formal. It is with very real sadness that I say goodbye to a number of pieces in my collection that, over the years, I have grown extremely fond of. It is time to pass ownership to other collectors who, I hope, will enjoy them as much as I have."

Reid's eagerness to unclutter his life is shown by the fact that he is selling a number of the works of art at a time when the market rates them worth considerably less than the amount he paid for them.

An abstract painting, *Mino-*

tour, by the Ukrainian artist Nikolai Flatov, was bought by Reid 10 years ago for £12,000. It is now valued at £2,000 to £3,000. A Louis XVI tulip-wood and ebony desk was bought four years ago for £45,000. It is now valued at £25,000 to £35,000. A 17th-century neoclassical painting *The Quarrel of Achilles and Agamemnon* by Francesco Allegri was also bought four years ago for £25,300. It is now valued at £12,000 to £18,000.

Many pieces were acquired from the collections of Rudolf Nureyev and Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Reid, 41, was Elton John's manager from the Seventies. Theirs was a highly successful, but often stormy, relationship,

which sometimes erupted in physical fights. It ended earlier this year, and last month Reid was involved in a High Court case with another high-profile client, the dancer Michael Flatley over their management agreement. Reid won "a substantial sum" after suing Flatley for breach of contract. A counter claim by Flatley against Reid was also settled.

Reid, who is said to be worth more than £20m, came from a working-class background in Paisley near Glasgow, and started in the music business as the UK manager for the American record label Tamla Motown. His business acumen led him in the Sixties to pick Smokey Robinson's Tears

Of A Clown for a single release. Later, he acted as manager or consultant to Queen, Simple Minds, George Michael, Billy Connolly and Barry Humphries.

They could all have been regularly entertained at any of Reid's three homes. There they could see a Steinway piano from the Los Angeles home of Elton John (estimated to be worth £15,000 to £20,000) or a £25,000 18-carat gold sculpture by Elisabeth Frink called *Rolling over Horse*.

The works from John Reid's London home include a set of multi-coloured marble busts of the four comedians, affectionately referred to by Reid as "the Village People", after the 1970s pop group.

John Reid getting a kiss on the cheek from Elton John

Rex

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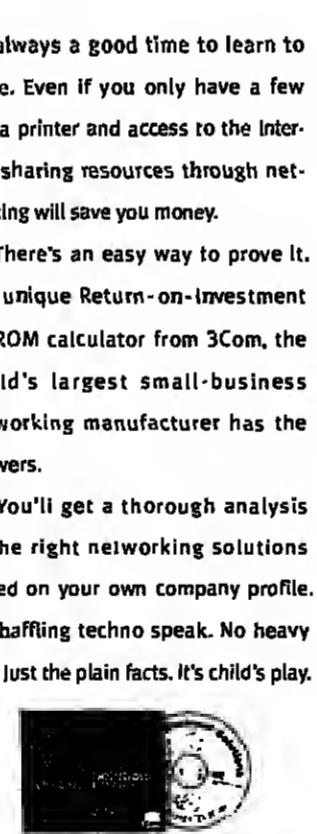
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Councillor 'used poverty fund to hire prostitutes'

BY JONATHAN FOSTER

The council said yesterday it had begun a "purge" of the forum's influence in Rotherham politics, including an investigation of evidence that separate "double expenses" claims had been submitted to the forum and the council for identical travel, accommodation and entertainment costs.

"We uncovered the web of influence the forum enjoyed," a senior council officer said. "We have been able to shut off the caucus."

Mr Reed was convenor of the anti-poverty organisation established in 1993 by a consortium of UK local councils to help provide regional and national strategy bases, to campaign and to think". Rotherham

council gave £22,500 to the forum's running costs this year, and has spent a total of £400,000 in grants, services and fees since 1994. More than 150 other local authorities are understood to have paid annual subscriptions of £2,500-£3,500 in return for briefings.

Five detectives have been assigned to the inquiry. They are members of the team investigating the affairs of neighbouring Doncaster council. "The council has undertaken to influence the forum and paid staff salaries," the official said. "But it has operated independently. We know now that a lot of its budget has gone on expenses, and some of it has involved what is locally known as 'going to Manchester to get to Cleethorpes'."

"Mr Reed was in

Dublin attending the Fianna Fail annual conference with a number of Rotherham council staff, including Bob Bone, a council employee seconded to work for the forum, when police raided the group's offices.

The two men have denied fund sums were misused. Mr Reed now faces suspension by regional officials of the Labour Party.

"I understand the police inquiry is into the misappropriation of funds, but it is nonsense. I haven't a clue what it is really about... but I have nothing to hide," said Mr Reed.

Mr Bone has resigned as secretary of Hemsworth Labour Party, and from Crofton parish council, West Yorkshire. He said the allegations were "arrant nonsense".

Lara Croft becomes Britain's latest scientific role model

BRITAIN HAS a new ambassador for scientific excellence. Educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and rarely out of her teens, her appointment might appear to be a blow both for youth and for political correctness.

But that would overlook her tendency to carry an Uzi sub-machine-gun, shoot people without asking their names, and wear sketchy clothes to cover her pneumatic figure. The new "ambassador", nominated today by the Science minister Lord Sainsbury, is Lara Croft – the digital heroine of the Tomb Raider computer game.

The choice might seem an unusual move by the Government, although given its disappointment earlier this month when the actress Emma Thompson declined its invitation to be a role model for young women, perhaps it decided that imaginary people

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

Technology Editor

are more hirable than real ones – apart from backbench MPs, of course.

Lord Sainsbury, however, is certain she is the right person for the job of representing the multi-billion pound British science base to the rest of the world. In a speech today to the Social Market Foundation about "Science and the Knowledge Economy", he is dismissive of previous promotional efforts for British science, which have "plumped for the safe option – Stephenson's Rocket rather than the Pion Organiser".

To reverse this, he says: "I want people to think of scientific achievements such as Thrust, the first supersonic car; rather than Stephenson or Faraday. I want Lara Croft of Tomb Raider to be an ambassador for British scientific excellence."

While Ms Croft is hardly in a position to refuse, she is often less than diplomatic. In the game she is a sort of female Indiana Jones who dispatches opponents with little negotiation and lots of gunfire. It is always possible that if she succeeds as an envoy for British science, she may even go so far as to create them using graphics software.

For Ms Croft, the latest appointment follows her being given "Millennium Product" status by the Design Council, granting her a place in the Millennium Dome. Nobody was available yesterday from Core Design, which devised Ms Croft in 1996, to say whether there will be revised "ambassador of British science" versions of Ms Croft – perhaps with Union Jack clothes – in future.



Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, will appoint her as an ambassador to excellence among hereditary peers.

However, the 10 million or so Tomb Raider players worldwide – most of them adolescent boys – tend to associate her with a different kind of excellence. Many have speculated about whether any "scenes" in the games would reveal her nude; some have even gone so far as to create them using graphics software.

For Ms Croft, the latest appointment follows her being given "Millennium Product" status by the Design Council, granting her a place in the Millennium Dome. Nobody was available yesterday from Core Design, which devised Ms Croft in 1996, to say whether there will be revised "ambassador of British science" versions of Ms Croft – perhaps with Union Jack clothes – in future.

plan

Mr Blunkett said he wanted a break in the traditional way which are stopping, two-thirds of teachers, at point nine on the pay scale, which is £25,000, and saying, "this is staff and you should be able to progress because you are good at the job, not because you take on management responsibility."

"I know of no other walk of life where two thirds of people have a barrier on being able to progress past £25,000 a year."



Former mayor Norbert Lindner (right) greeting a fellow transsexual yesterday at the election in Quellendorf, Germany, in which he was voted out. The poll was called when he said he was becoming Michaela

A TEXAN politician once said: "There ain't nothing in the middle of the road but yellow lines and dead armadillos." Much the same - allowing for differences in fauna and road-markings - could be said of French politics in the past 40 years.

This weekend an attempt - maybe historic, maybe doomed - was made to generate a strong force in the centre of French politics. The Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) - a kind of holding company of centre and right parties since 1978 - was remoulded into a new single party of the centre. This opens up the possibility of alliances between the centre and left for the first time since the Fifth Republic was founded in 1958.

In the shorter term, the new centrist party must decide whether to go it alone in the European elections next June,

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

abandoning the quarrelsome coalition of the Gaullists and centre right that has dominated French conservative and liberal politics for two decades.

The President of the UDF, François Bayrou, told delegates to the founding convention in Lille that they were opening a new chapter in French politics. "This is the end of a long march and the beginning of a new way," he said.

The new party, which will have 68 deputies in the National Assembly, is broadly pro-European, pro-market, in favour of modernised welfare systems and better directed state spending. It might be described as a French Blairite party - Mr Bayrou is a great admirer of New Labour.

A string of speakers at the

weekend called on the party to present a separate list for the Euro elections, cutting formal links with the Gaullists and other right-wing parties. A decision will be made in January.

The stable but stultified landscape of French right-of-centre politics has been blown apart in the past eight months.

A series of unauthorised local alliances with the far-right National Front forged by a handful of regional barons last March destroyed the old structures, leaving the national leaders in an often undignified scramble to pick up the pieces.

The neo-Gaullist RPR - itself an uneasy mix of populism and liberalism, nationalism and Europeanism - has survived more or less intact as the most important single formation on the centre right.

But parts of the old UDF coalition have spun off into

two competing right-wing parties, some of whose members are tempted to form permanent electoral alliances with the anti-immigrant, extreme nationalist NF. The former defence minister Charles Millon, now in alliance with the NF as president of the Rhône-Alpes region, was ejected from the UDF and formed his own mildly Eurosceptic party called La Droite. Alain Madelin took his Démocrate Libérale party out of the UDF and into informal partnership with the Gaullists.

The rump of the UDF - Mr Bayrou's centrist Force Démocratique, members of two other small parties and a few anti-Madelin former liberals - decided at the weekend to pool their resources. Even then, the two small parties - with four MPs between them - have insisted on maintaining a separate identity for the time being.

Swiss vote 'no' to drugs free-for-all

CASTING DOUBT on their staid reputation, one in four Swiss yesterday supported a proposal to legalise the consumption of heroin and other hard drugs.

Most voters in the referendum heeded the government's noisy warnings that a "yes" vote would turn their country into a haven for drug tourists and outrage their European neighbours.

But 26 per cent of the voters - almost half a million people - agreed with a proposed constitutional amendment put up by a loose coalition of left-wing groups, that "the consumption, cultivation or possession of drugs, and their acquisition for personal use, is not punishable".

Last year, Switzerland voted in favour of the distribution of heroin by the state to hardened addicts. But the majority balked at the prospect of a drugs free-for-all.

No other European nation, not even the broad-minded Netherlands, has yet legalised

the possession or sale of any hard drugs.

The government said its current policy of helping hardcore addicts while clamping down on dealers was the best. The pro-legitimisation lobby, which gathered the necessary 100,000 signatures to force a referendum, claimed legalisation would reduce trafficking and stamp out the black market.

The aim of the referendum organisers was not necessarily to win the vote yesterday, but to develop the debate and strengthen their hand in their campaign to convince the government to relax the laws on soft drugs such as cannabis.

Switzerland has an estimated 30,000 hard-drug addicts in a population of seven million.

François Reusser, the co-organiser of the committee that collected signatures for the referendum, said: "We were unable to mobilise the dope-smokers and ravers."

IN BRIEF

Italian accused of family killings

AN ITALIAN man who surfaced last week in London was arrested in Rome on charges of killing his family nine years ago. The Carretta family has been missing since 1983. Fernando Carretta, 36, is accused of killing his father, mother and younger brother. Mr Carretta was stopped in London during a routine police check.

Airline bugged by complaints

LUFTHANSA'S IN-FLIGHT caterer, LSG Lufthansa Service Hong Kong, is being sued by a Hong Kong company for allegedly providing poor meals, including one with a cockroach, a Hong Kong newspaper said. Nutritional Food Production Ltd, which supplies school lunches, said some meals contained sand, pencil lead and wood chips.

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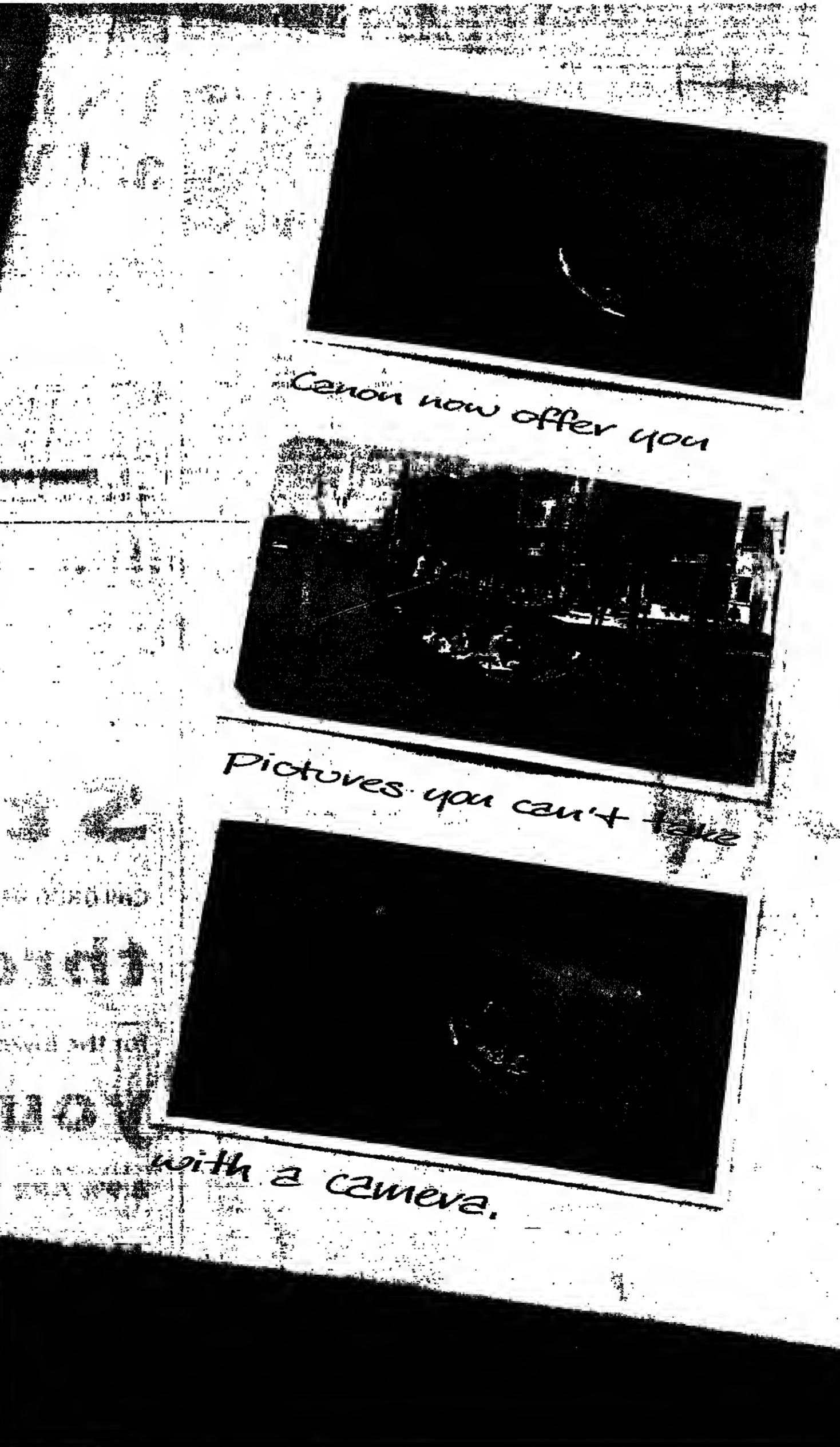
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YOU AND
CANON CAN

Embassy bombing appeal is stalled

MORE THAN a year after the former MI5 agent David Shayler revealed the British security services were warned about the 1994 bombing of the Israeli embassy in London, a lawyer is still waiting for the Crown Prosecution Service to give her information about who was behind the attack.

Gareth Peirce, who represents the two Arabs serving 20 years for conspiracy to bomb the embassy – both of whom still proclaim their innocence – has complained to the Director of Public Prosecutions about the failure to respond to her request.

Mr Shayler, who has been released by French authorities after a failed extradition demand from Britain, first spoke about the warning in an interview with *The Mail on Sunday*, claiming that the British security authorities received word from “an impeccable source” that the Israeli embassy would be bombed.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has said the information would not have enabled it to prevent the embassy bombing.

BY ROBERT FISK
Middle East Correspondent

Samar Alami and Jawad Botni, who were convicted of conspiracy in 1996, say they were “set up” by a man they suspect was working for the Israelis and whom they named as Reda Moghrabi.

The police have found no record of the man.

“The day we read the report about Shayler, I wrote to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to say that this appeared to be important information, of which we were unaware and asked them to provide us with it,” Ms Peirce said.

This was almost exactly a year ago. I have repeatedly asked them since – but have re-

ceived no response. I filed a formal complaint with the Director of Public Prosecutions about this lack of response – about the failure of the CPS to provide us with a reply.”

Ms Peirce wrote personally to Dame Barbara Mills, then the Director of Public Prosecutions, whose job has now been taken by David Calvert-Smith – who was, ironically, the senior prosecutor at the trial of Alami and Botni. “I was told that my request for information was under ‘active consideration’,” Ms Peirce said.

“The second response was that there would have to be a Public Interest Immunity hearing – which means that the CPS would put before the Court of Appeal the information they

had, indicating either that they didn’t wish to – or could not – reveal this information to the defence. The court would then have to decide whether, in their view, the prosecution should reveal this information to the defence or not – and all of this argument would take place in the absence of the defence.”

According to Ms Peirce: “If the security services had a reliable warning from a reliable source, that could clearly give us information as to who was behind the bombing – it could provide strong clues as to what we need to know – about who is Reda Moghrabi.”

No date is set for an appeal of Alami’s and Botni’s case. Their sketch of Reda Moghrabi – the man they believe carried out the bombing – was published for the first time in *The Independent* last week.

Neither the police nor the prosecution sought such a portrait from them.

And no search is underway to find the man whom the two convicted prisoners say implicated them in the attack on the Israeli embassy.

No immunity for Shayler

THE SOLICITOR acting for David Shayler said yesterday the Government had shifted its position by refusing to offer the former MI5 officer immunity from prosecution.

Mr Shayler said: “I am not at the moment considering making any more revelations but if I was living in Britain I would be constrained by whatever laws there were.”



Joel Rennich/AP

New Banking and Savings Interest Rates from Nationwide

FROM 1ST DECEMBER 1998
NEW RATES FOR PERSONAL SAVERS

	Previous	New	Previous	New
CashBuilder	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	5.40%	4.32%	5.00%	3.92%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.10%	4.05%	5.00%	3.68%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.70%	3.70%	4.20%	3.56%
£3,000 - £9,999	4.50%	3.60%	4.00%	3.20%
£500 - £4,999	4.30%	3.44%	3.80%	3.04%
£1 - £499	1.50%	1.20%	1.00%	0.80%
CapitalBuilder	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	6.40%	5.12%	5.00%	4.72%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.10%	4.88%	5.00%	4.48%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.50%	4.64%	5.20%	4.24%
£1 - £9,999	5.00%	4.48%	5.10%	4.08%
Monthly Income	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	6.10%	4.85%	5.00%	4.48%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.80%	4.64%	5.20%	4.24%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.40%	4.40%	5.00%	4.00%
Bonus Saver*	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.85%	6.28%	7.40%	5.92%
The Smart Account	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.70%	6.16%	7.25%	5.80%
Smart 2 Save	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.00%	6.16%	7.25%	5.80%
FlexAccount	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£25,000 +	4.10%	3.28%	3.60%	2.58%
£10,000 - £24,999	3.10%	2.48%	2.60%	2.08%
£1,000 - £9,999	2.40%	1.92%	1.90%	1.52%
£1 - £1,000	1.50%	1.20%	1.00%	0.80%
Special Renewal Bond	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£100,000 +	8.20%	6.56%	7.70%	6.16%
£50,000 - £99,999	7.80%	6.24%	7.30%	5.84%
£25,000 - £49,999	7.40%	6.08%	7.10%	5.68%
£10,000 - £24,999	7.00%	5.92%	6.50%	5.52%
£1 - £9,999	6.40%	5.32%	6.00%	5.20%
CashBuilder	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	6.20%	4.92%	5.80%	4.52%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.90%	4.60%	5.50%	4.20%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.50%	4.20%	5.00%	3.80%
Bonus Saver*	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.85%	6.28%	7.40%	5.92%
The Smart Account	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.70%	6.16%	7.25%	5.80%
Smart 2 Save	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£1 +	7.00%	6.16%	7.25%	5.80%
FlexAccount	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£25,000 +	4.10%	3.28%	3.60%	2.58%
£10,000 - £24,999	3.10%	2.48%	2.60%	2.08%
£1,000 - £9,999	2.40%	1.92%	1.90%	1.52%
£1 - £1,000	1.50%	1.20%	1.00%	0.80%
Special Renewal Bond	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£100,000 +	8.20%	6.56%	7.70%	6.16%
£50,000 - £99,999	7.80%	6.24%	7.30%	5.84%
£25,000 - £49,999	7.40%	6.08%	6.50%	5.52%
£10,000 - £24,999	7.00%	5.92%	6.00%	5.20%
£1 - £9,999	6.40%	5.32%	6.00%	5.20%

*Bonus and Bonus 60 Monthly rates include a 1.0% gross p.a. (0.80% net p.a.) based on which is variable, and is credited to the account monthly. Minimum term is 12 months. Maximum term is 5 years. Minimum investment is £1,000. Maximum withdrawal is £1,000. Withdrawals must be paid in full. TESSA 1 accounts are subject to tax at the rate of 10% on the amount withdrawn each year. TESSA 2 accounts are subject to tax at the rate of 11% on the amount withdrawn each year. TESSA 2.2% accounts will be paid on the maturity balance of the rest of the TESSA 2 term. Interest is subject to tax at the appropriate rate on amounts prior to maturity. There are no fees or charges on these accounts other than death. TESSA 2 accounts are subject to inheritance restrictions. See the TESSA 2.2% account section of the TESSA booklet. Bonus 60 Monthly, Bonus 60 (Monthly), Bonus 60 (Monthly) and Monthly Income, where interest is paid half-yearly, and Bonus 2 Saver and The Smart Accounts, where interest is paid half-yearly.

NEW RATES FOR BUSINESS SAVERS

	Previous	New	Previous	New
Business Investor	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	5.10%	4.32%	4.90%	3.92%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.00%	4.00%	4.50%	3.60%
£10,000 - £24,999	4.50%	3.60%	3.90%	3.12%
£5,000 - £9,999	4.10%	3.28%	3.50%	2.80%
£1 - £4,999	3.80%	3.04%	3.20%	2.56%

1. For savings balances in accounts of less than £1,000 interest will be paid at 4.0% gross p.a. (3.2% net p.a.) Interest is calculated daily and paid quarterly on the last day of March, June, September and December.

NEW RATES FOR ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

	Previous	New	Previous	New	
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
"Avon Reserve"	£50,000 +	5.10%	4.32%	4.90%	3.92%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.00%	4.00%	4.50%	3.60%
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.50%	3.60%	3.90%	3.12%
	£5,000 - £9,999	4.10%	3.28%	3.50%	2.80%
	£1 - £4,999	3.80%	3.04%	3.20%	2.56%
Capital Bonus 180	£25,000 +	6.20%	5.32%	6.15%	4.92%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.00%	5.12%	5.80%	4.60%
	£1 - £9,999	5.80%	4.96%	5.30%	4.20%
Capital Bonus 180	£25,000 +	6.10%	5.28%	5.80%	4.60%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.90%	5.00%	5.30%	4.20%
	£1 - £9,999	5.70%	4.84%	5.10%	4.08%
Capital Bonus 180	£25,000 +	6.10%	5.28%	5.80%	4.60%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.90%	5.00%	5.30%	4.20%
	£1 - £9,999	5.70%	4.84%	5.10%	4.08%
Capital Bonus 180 Half-Yearly	£25,000 +	5.80%	4.96%	5.30%	4.20%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.50%	4.60%	5.00%	4.00%
	£1 - £9,999	5.20%	4.24%	4.80%	3.84%
BonusBuilder	£25,000 +	5.10%	4.18%	4.40%	3.48%
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.70%	3.76%	4.20%	3.36%
	£1 - £9,999	4.50%	3.60%	4.10%	3.20%
BonusBuilder	£25,000 +	5.10%	4.18%	4.40%	3.48%
	£10,000 - £24,999	4.70%	3.76%	4.20%	3.36%
	£1 - £9,999	4.50%	3.60%	4.10%	3.20%
BonusBuilder	£25,000 +	5.10%	4.18%	4.40%	3.48%

Joel Remick

ONE OF THE MOST DISTRESSING SYMPTOMS OF M.S. IS THAT IT MAKES YOU INVISIBLE.



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broadband and will include tracking and restoration of lost health insurance policies held by Holocaust victims trying to re-examine the validity of their claims. Onez said: "The State of Israel is trying as much as possible to negotiate with the German government to release the names of the two concentration camp inmates discussed." The department officials in Washington were horrified by the German position, suggesting that the US should demand compensation for the extended stay of the Jews in the gas chambers. The US government, White House sources insisted, had been too busy on President Clinton's campaign tour of Asia to pay attention to the issue. The US government, however, had been informed by the US ambassador to Germany, Richard Holbrooke, that the German government was prepared to accept the demands of the US delegation.

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1 July 1999

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Capital One

Quebec vote brings separation closer

BY DAVID USBORNE
in Montreal

foreigner wants to settle in Quebec, getting papers from Ottawa is not enough. You must get them from Quebec City also. This is the case in no other province.

Pivotal in the next few months will be the fate of an agreement reached this summer by the provincial premiers, dubbed the "social union". This seeks to give the provinces the right to opt out of social spending programmes funded by Ottawa. They could still take federal funds for social policies, such as healthcare and education, but spend it as they wish.

In what some see as an elaborate game of poker, Mr Bouchard may be banking – probably correctly – on Ottawa rejecting the social union pact. That would be his chance to stoke the anti-federalist fires in Quebec and go at once for a referendum. In the 1995 referendum, the separatists won 49.5 per cent of the electorate.

For ROC, the spectacle of Quebec once more plunging itself and the country into the constitutional abyss is both infuriating and wearisome. There

is a sense, almost, of Quebecers playing with the fate of the whole country for the fun of it.

"Sometimes they're in, sometimes they're out, but mostly they just want to shake it all about," wrote Mark Steyn last week in the *National Post*.

The politics of this race are complicated in the extreme. In a logic-defying paradox, the proportion of Quebecers who want secession seems to be on the wane. The province will return power to Bouchard in the knowledge that he is committed to nationhood. And yet 70 per cent of Quebecers also say they do not want another referendum.

That is because the politics of this race are complicated in the extreme. In a logic-defying paradox, the proportion of Quebecers who want secession seems to be on the wane. The province will return power to Bouchard in the knowledge that he is committed to nationhood. And yet 70 per cent of Quebecers also say they do not want another referendum.

While campaigning on Saturday in Mont-Joli, Mr Charest spotted two girls in the crowd.

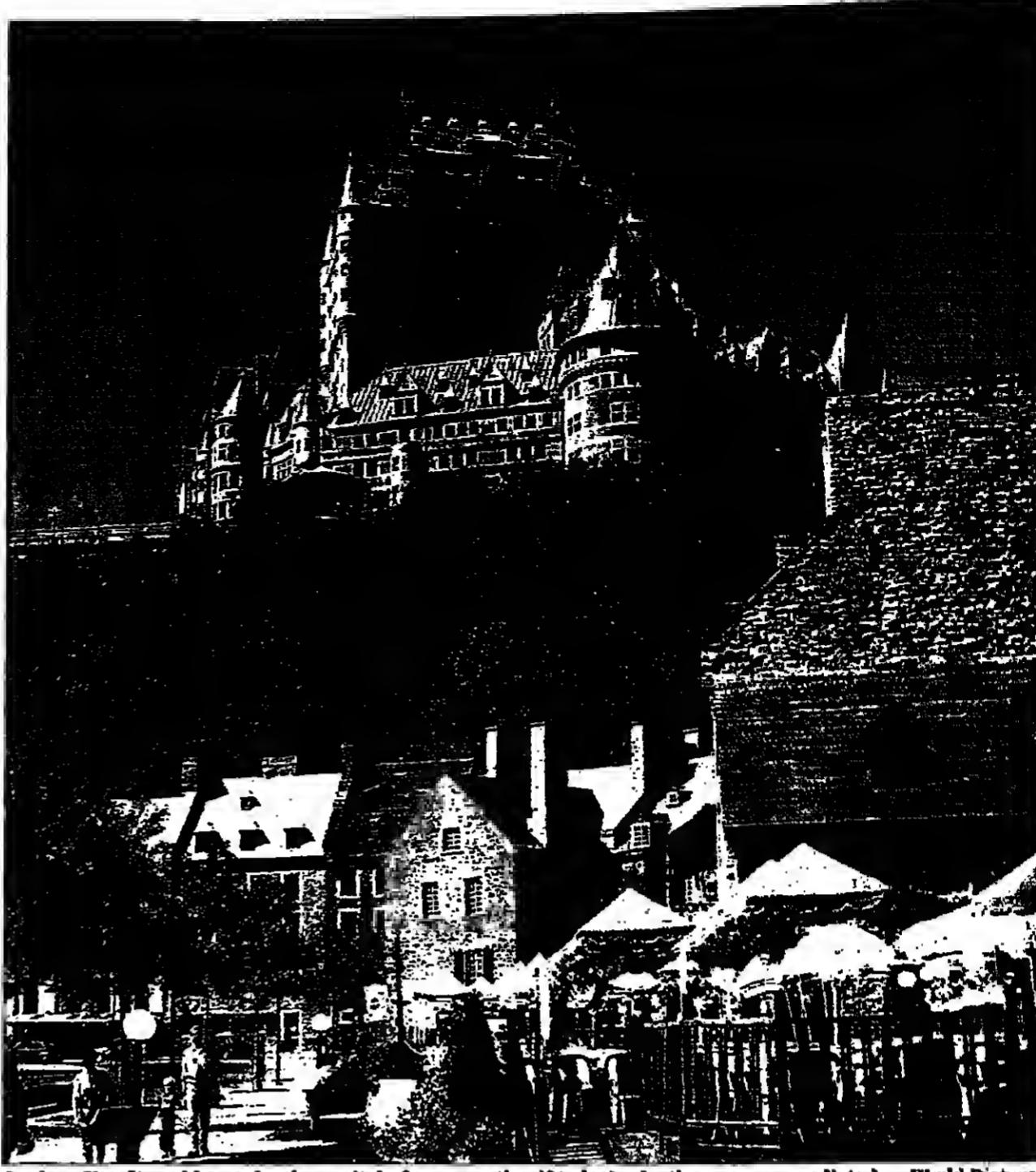
It was the idea "baby opportunity" but with a twist.

"Those two twin sisters are a little like the image of Quebec and Canada," he said. "It's like they're being told that as of Monday they have to be separated, that they're not made to live together, that their interests are so different, we'll never be able to reconcile them."

The irony is that Quebec is

a quasi-nation already. It has its own diplomatic relationship with France and even has distinct immigration policies. If a

Leading Article,
Review, page 3



Quebec City. It could soon be the capital of a new nation if today's election goes as predicted. World Pictures

THE DREAM of an independent nation of Quebec seems certain to be revived today as voters in this giant province go to the polls in an election that is predicted to hand a huge victory to the sovereigntist Parti Québécois.

Dreams that is, for some. Make that nightmare for ROC, the acronym commonly used here for the "Rest of Canada", which finds itself once more shut out, a disenfranchised witness to a political agony that for two decades has threatened to break apart a confederation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific and north to the Arctic, which still has the Queen as its head of state.

And it is a replay of a familiar nightmare too for the minority anglophones who account for just 17 per cent of the seven million people who live in Quebec. In the past 20 years, as the sovereigntist debate has waxed and waned, many of the province's English speakers have upped and left in despair.

Polls can be wrong. But barring the unexpected, the Parti Québécois, led by 59-year-old Lucien Bouchard, the incumbent provincial premier and fiery hero of Canada's francophone community, will triumph today over the opposition Quebec Liberal Party headed by 40-year-old Jean Charest.

Canada will not fall apart overnight. But a victory for Mr Bouchard will open the way for him to call one more referendum – the last was in 1995 – on whether Quebec should go it alone as an independent country. The bigger the margin of his win, everyone agrees, the sooner that referendum is likely to come.

Militants among the Bouchard faithful are already

preparing for battle next year in the probably unrealistic hope of forging their new nation in time for the millennium.

"A country for 2000", is the motto that has been heard whispered at the back of some of Mr Bouchard's more incendiary election meetings. The leader himself, however, has been playing a more cautious, and more canny game.

It is a strategy, however, that has been adopted by Mr Charest, who has attempted to warn Quebecers that a vote for Bouchard is a vote for separation. "From that moment on, there will be an irreversible process to separate Quebec from Canada," he declared last week. "From then on, we lose total control of events – all the levers, all the cards are in their hands."

While campaigning on Saturday in Mont-Joli, Mr Charest spotted two girls in the crowd. It was the idea "baby opportunity" but with a twist.

"Those two twin sisters are a little like the image of Quebec and Canada," he said. "It's like they're being told that as of Monday they have to be separated, that they're not made to live together, that their interests are so different, we'll never be able to reconcile them."

The irony is that Quebec is

a quasi-nation already. It has its own diplomatic relationship with France and even has distinct immigration policies. If a

Police search Texan woods for death row convict on run

POLICE USING boats, horses, dogs and helicopters kept up a methodical search yesterday for a death row inmate who escaped amid a hail of bullets from Texas prison guards' rifles.

The manhunt for Martin Gurule has now shifted to a town near the prison, at Huntsville, where one resident fired shots

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

at an intruder. However police officers later said the intruder was not Gurule.

Internal affairs investigators were trying to learn how Gurule made his break from the Ellis I prison on Friday with six

other death row inmates. The other escapees were quickly recaptured. The authorities said prison video cameras did not record Gurule as he scaled two razor-bladed fences and made good his escape.

Five hundred police officers, prison guards, sheriff's deputies and state troopers

have been combing a heavily wooded area in the south-eastern quarter of the prison grounds. There were no reports of burglaries or other sightings by residents that would indicate where Gurule, 29, might be hiding.

He was sentenced to death for the shooting in 1992 of a

restaurant owner in Corpus Christi. He lost an appeal almost a year ago, but no execution date had been set.

Guards fired about 18 rounds at the fleeing inmates on the night of the escape, forcing six of them to stop short of freedom. None of the inmates was hit in the heavy fog. Prison of-

ficials said they had camouflaged their clothing by dying it a greyish-black with ink collected from felt-tipped pens.

Police in Seattle are pondering the motive of a passenger who forced a bus off a cliff when he shot the driver.

Three passengers were killed when the bus, carrying at

least 35 people, plummetted 50 feet off a busy Seattle bridge toward an apartment building.

The victims included the driver Mark McLaughlin, 44, who lost control of the bus after being hit by gunfire. Mr McLaughlin died at the scene.

Sources in Seattle identified the man as Silas Codd, a 43-year-old unemployed man.

The bus was ripped apart by the fall from the bridge.



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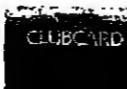
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CLARKE

loser

Gandhi party sweeps board in state polls

INDIA'S POLITICS entered a new phase of uncertainty yesterday when the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which leads the central government, was humiliated by the Congress party in regional elections.

Congress, led by the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, widow of late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, won convincingly in state legislature elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi.

In each case Congress reversed the BJP's supremacy and in Madhya Pradesh surprised even their own supporters by the scale of their success.

The results were variously seen as a personal triumph for Sonia Gandhi, a thumping down for the BJP's ineffective rule, and an angry reaction to escalating prices of basic commodities.

Onions, for example, the most basic staple of the Indian diet after rice, have risen in

BY PETER POPHAM
in Calcutta

price by more than 1,000 per cent in recent months, and the government, which hit-bombed its way into the world's awareness in May, has been unable to think of any way to bring them down.

The defeats provoked a flurry of speculation about how much longer the government can survive. It is a baggy coalition of 19 partners, few of which have much more in common than the desire to be in power. Some of them will now be tempted to peel away and back Congress in early elections.

But Sonia Gandhi, who has now received her first popular endorsement since taking over as leader of Congress in April, is unlikely to be rushed into a hasty attempt to pull down the government.

Her strategy so far has been to let it fall apart of its own ac-

cord rather than risk public anger by working to hasten it - and the strategy proved correct at the weekend.

As one of the BJP's star players, Sushma Swaraj, put it ruefully as the results were still coming in: "Our house was burnt down by the people living in it." Mrs Gandhi told a television interviewer: "We have gained a lot of strength, but we have to get down to work."

When asked whether she would seek an early vote of no confidence against the government, she said: "We ought not to rush into certain situations. I wouldn't like to do so."

But the BJP's losses bring much closer the day when India is likely to get its fourth Gandhi as prime minister, although the first one born outside the country.

In all, Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi ruled India for more than 38 years.

The BJP government will do

its best to stagger on regardless.

The BJP's parliamentary leaders were due to meet their allies yesterday. Admitting defeat, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, said voters appeared to want a change, although he insisted that the reverses in the polls would not stop the country's economic reform programme.

However, a worsening eco-

nomic recession will now be aggravated further by investor nervousness at the return of political volatility.

Jairam Ramesh, secretary of Congress's economic cell, pre-

dicted that another general election would be held between April and September of next year, following a second wave of regional elections which may humiliate the BJP some more.

AP

Sonia Gandhi, leader of the Congress Party, greeting supporters in Delhi after her party's poll success



FOREIGN NEWS/13

Outback revolts against bankers

BY JAKE LYNCH
in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S embattled rural communities are in revolt against the country's big four banks, with dozens of towns and villages queuing up to start their own community lending institutions instead.

The revolt has been triggered by the closure of bank branches, one-sixth of which have disappeared from the high streets in the past four years. But it has been stoked by growing resentment in the outback against the banks' rising fees, profits and executive salaries.

In the railway town of Henty, New South Wales, pensioners complain that they must now pay two dollars simply to cash their weekly pension cheques across the counter.

The Commonwealth, which announced further fee increases this week, was the last of five banks to pull out of Henty's "main drag". Locals saw the Commonwealth's closure as a portent of disaster, for times are difficult.

At the pawnbroker's, the manageress has dropped interest rates to help young mothers who were bringing in tables and chairs to raise cash for groceries. "Country life is becoming ... a very sad state," she said.

But Henty's high street became the setting for a highball. A retired farmer, Milton Taylor, had heard earlier this year about a small country bank, The Bendigo. "Some people gave us everything they had," he said, referring to the amounts he received to start the Henty Community Branch of the Bendigo Bank. In only a fortnight £100,000 was raised to buy and fit out premises, recruit staff and open for business.

But over the past two weeks, more than £2m has flooded in to the bank, as locals stampeded out of the big four in favour of the newcomer, whose profits must be invested in the community.

Bendigo's inspiration was Mohammed Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, last week named winner of the Sydney Peace Prize.

Sacking by blackmail is latest corporate trick

BEING SACKED is never pleasant, but Hong Kong employers are demonstrating a nasty ability to make a trauma out of a dilemma.

As the economic recession gathers pace, companies in the former British colony are resorting to increasingly devious ways to ensure that they do not have to fork out even the minimum sum for redundancy, which is laid down by law.

A friend of mine had been employed by a publicly listed service company for more than 11 years. He worked his way up to a senior management position. However, the company is facing hard times, although the division he was running happened to be turning out healthy profits. Economics were hav-

ing to be made and the number of more highly paid staff reduced.

Without warning, he was called in by the inappropriately named human resources department and told his performance was not up to scratch.

Moreover, the managers hinted that improprieties had been discovered in some of the goods-ordering for which he was responsible. "We want you to resign", they said. If he did, they said, there would be no investigation into the alleged improprieties, nor would he face the ignominy of being sacked. They even said they would pay his last month's wages.

But they neglected to conduct some elementary checks,

which would have shown that the alleged improprieties involved matters over which one of the company directors had given his explicit approval.

My friend challenged his accusers to provide evidence. A silence followed. Two weeks later he was called in and told that in fact they needed to make him redundant. Would he be receiving his full entitlement to redundancy pay? Yes, of course, came the answer. Would the company formally say that it was dropping all accusations against him? That was difficult, they said. How about a personal letter from the chairman written on a "no prejudice basis"?

This is not an isolated example in Hong Kong. One very

CITY LIFE HONG KONG

large company sought to avoid paying pregnancy leave to a member of staff by sacking the woman for theft - wait for it - a cinema ticket. She won a small amount of compensation from a labour tribunal but she remained out of a job.

The trend in Hong Kong was started by the British controlled Hongkong Telecom company. This firm announced a pay cut for employees and the sack for those who would not accept it. Hongkong Telecom is so big that its actions attracted widespread attention and a storm ensued. The company was forced to back down, but,

not before it had replaced its ultimatum over wage cuts with another for cutting statutory bonuses, which amounts to much the same thing.

The telecommunications company opened the floodgates. An upmarket clothing chain, called The Swank Shop, ordered its staff to take a 15 per cent pay cut or be sacked. The hard-hat hotel industry is also busy laying off people and tearing up the contracts of those who remain, saying that they either accept lower pay and conditions or collect their cards.

A paging company demonstrated its communication skills by sending a pager message to all its staff, extending work hours and cutting their commissions.

Some companies have been solving the problem of paying for staff redundancies with the simple expedient of closing the firm overnight and posting a notice on their front doors, saying the owners have gone away.

These same owners soon reappear somewhere else and start up new businesses.

Employment contracts increasingly look as though they are not worth the paper they are printed on. Unfortunately, environmentally minded Hong Kong citizens hoping to send off their redundant contracts for recycling cannot do so, as Hong Kong's only paper recycling company has just closed, throwing 400 people out of work without a moment's notice.

STEPHEN VINES

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Growth forecast 'unlikely to be met'

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic growth forecast for next year is unlikely to be met due to the widening UK trade balance, according to an academic think-tank. In a report out today, the Institute for Manufacturing says that recent trade figures cast "grave doubts" on the Chancellor Gordon Brown's prediction of 1 to 1.5 per cent growth for 1999. The institute, made up of Cambridge University academics and industry representatives, warns that the crisis in South-east Asia and the continuing strength of sterling will cripple exporters and slow down growth.

More's \$200m subway contract



MORE GROUP, the outdoor advertising company that was taken over by the US media giant Clear Channel Communications earlier this year, has made a major breakthrough in the United States by winning a contract worth up to \$200m in New York City.

More's Adshel subsidiary has clinched a seven-year deal with the Manhattan Transport Authority, which operates New York's subway system, to supply and manage 1,200 illuminated advertising panels. The panels will be fitted on railings outside subway stations, in full view of all passing traffic.

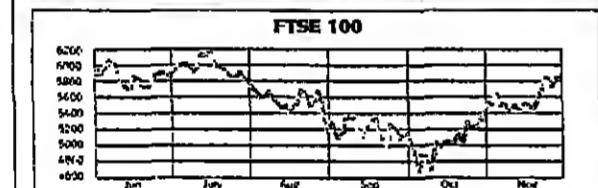
The contract, which was won against tough competition from US rivals, shows that More's approach is proving successful outside the UK.

Private Investors to boom

THE NUMBER of wealthy private investors is set to balloon over the next seven years, according to a report published yesterday by the US investment bank Merrill Lynch and management consultancy firm Gemini Consulting.

The report predicts that the number of UK investors with financial assets of more than £50,000 will rise by 25 per cent by the year 2005. This rise in private wealth will be driven by an ever-increasing reliance on private pensions as state provision is progressively reduced and the average age of the population rises, the report says.

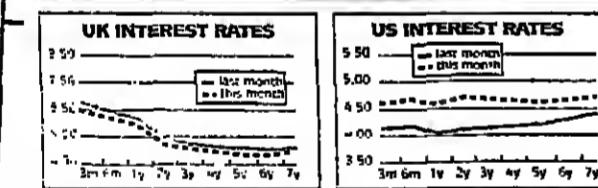
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Wk's chg	Mth's chg%	52 wks high	52 wks low	Wk's vol	Market (\$)
FTSE 100	5844.20	126.70	2.22	6183.7	4599.3	3,22	
FTSE 250	4928.00	83.90	1.71	5270	4247	4,71	
FTSE 350	2763.60	97.80	3.14	2969.1	2210.4	3,46	
FTSE All Share	2662.80	54.15	2.07	2866.52	2143.33	3,49	
FTSE SmallCap	2070.90	17.20	0.84	2793	1834	4.08	
FTSE Fleetsize	1142.50	6.40	0.56	1517.1	1046.2	0.904	
FTSE AIM	316.10	-5.70	-0.74	1146	761	0.002	
FTSE BLOC 100	82.00	0.00	0.00	82.00	82.00	0.00	
Dax Jones	9333.00	171.43	1.90	9250	7400	1,606	
Nikkei 225	15063.70	288.65	1.96	17852	12767	5,672	
Hang Seng	10742.11	508.75	4.97	11296	6544	2,907	
Dax	5121.48	203.60	4.27	6217.83	3833.71	1,735	

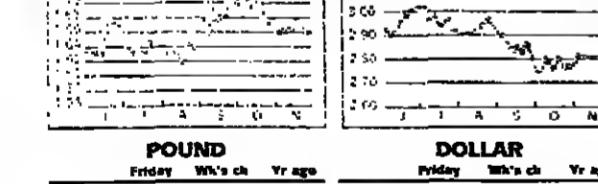
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long term	Yr chg
US	6.93	-0.27	6.40	-1.48	4.76	-1.81	4.49	-1.95
US	5.25	-0.62	5.14	-0.86	4.81	..	5.16	..
UK	0.42	-0.27	0.49	-0.24	1.11	-0.98	1.76	-0.88
Germany	5.63	-0.11	3.47	-0.62	4.03	-1.47	4.85	-1.19

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's chg	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Rpt
Brent Crude	21.50	-0.74	2.07	1.04	-0.07	1.04	Dec
Gold (\$)	206.20	3.45	..	RPB	164.50	3.10	159.55
Silver (\$)	4.94	-0.03	5.27	Base Rates	6.75	7.25	

[www.bloomberg.com/uk](http://www.bloomberg.com/)

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

For	Australia (\$)	2,508	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.90
Austria (Schellings)	19.18		Netherlands (guilder)	3,0760
Belgium (francs)	56.39		New Zealand (\$)	3,0058
Canada (\$)	2,4710		Norway (krone)	12.11
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8041		Portugal (escudos)	278.61
Denmark (kroner)	10.44		Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0362
Finland (markka)	5.3675		Singapore (\$)	2,6085
France (francs)	4,1605		Spain (pesetas)	231.93
Germany (marks)	2,7402		South Africa (rand)	9.0859
Greece (drachma)	459.43		Sweden (krone)	13.15
Hong Kong (\$)	12.37		Switzerland (francs)	2,2606
Iceland (kronur)	1,1969		Thailand (bahts)	54.93
India (rupees)	63.31		Turkey (lira)	460289
Iraq (dinar)	6.3920		USA (\$)	1.6101
Iraq (shekel)	2,716			
Japan (yen)	198.64			
Malaysia (ringgit)	6,0370			
Malta (lira)	0.6095			

Source: Thomas Cook

No buyer, no fee for Morgan in GRE deal

MORGAN STANLEY has signed a no-deal, no-fee agreement with Guardian Royal Exchange under which the US investment bank will receive no money if it fails to find a buyer for GRE that have come forward since the insurer put itself up for sale

BY ANDREW GARFIELD AND FRANCESCO GUERRERA

last week. A number of potential bidders have so far emerged with Britain's Royal & Sun Alliance and Allianz of Germany believed to have indicated that they might be prepared to table a bid for the group. That is in addition to AXA, whose original £2.5bn approach earlier this month forced GRE's hand.

Another surprise entry to

the fray over the weekend was Independent Insurance, the fast-growing group headed by Michael Bright, which has indicated it may be willing to pitch for parts of the group if chief executive John Robins was ready to pursue the idea of a break-up. City analysts remain sceptical that the interest will translate to a deal at anything like the £1 to £1.50 some shareholders are hoping to receive. That would value the group at £3.5bn.

Several City houses are urging investors to sell GRE at the current price. GRE shares rose more than 10 per cent in the first half of last week after it announced that it was open to offers. However, it fell back later to 336.5p on Friday, as scepticism about the willingness of potential bidders to pay the asking price grew.

Weekend speculation that Mr Bright was plotting a reverse takeover of GRE was dismissed

yesterday as "wide of the mark". But Independent, which specialises in high-margin businesses such as classic-car insurance, could be interested in GRE's overseas businesses. It is less keen on its UK motor and home insurance operations, which it sees as largely low-margin commodity businesses.

Morgan Stanley is also hope-

ful that financial bidders may be

willing to throw their hats into

the ring.

Barclays wants industry insider to replace Taylor

BARCLAYS BANK has asked City headhunting firm Spencer Stuart to lead the search for a replacement for Martin Taylor, whose surprise resignation as chief executive rocked the City last week.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, the senior Barclays non-executive director who played a key role in the events surrounding Mr Taylor's resignation, said yesterday that it was the board's duty to cast its net far and wide. But he also indicated that the clear preference of the board was for a banker rather than another candidate like Mr Taylor who came from outside the industry. "The job of the board is to

have a wide-ranging search. We are looking for someone who is a significant leader with banking experience," he said.

A meeting between representatives of Spencer Stuart and Andrew Burton, the Barclays chairman, has been scheduled for early this week. Sir Nigel's remarks would appear to rule out Keith Oates, the Marks & Spencer deputy chairman who lost out in the power struggle at the high street retailer last week and whose name surfaced as a potential candidate at the weekend.

Sir Nigel also cast doubt on the suitability of John Varley, the well-regarded head of Barclays Global Investors, Barclays' investment arm, who has also been mentioned as a possible chief executive over the last few days.

"We have some very good talent but they may not be ready for a job at that level," he said. Sir Nigel, who is the chairman of property group Slough Estates, rejected suggestions that Sir Peter Middleton, who has stepped into the breach, had been put in to secure a quick merger with another financial institution. He rejected suggestions that a deal with either Halifax or Lloyds-TSB, both of whom have surfaced as potential bidders since Mr Taylor left, would be in the bank's interest.

"I don't think that is necessarily the solution. We should not overreact to anything. Sir Peter Middleton needs a bit of time to review the options," he said.

However, Sir Nigel admitted that if the situation was still seen to be drifting in six months' time, Barclays would clearly be vulnerable.

"If that is still the situation in six months' time we will have to deal with it as it arrives," he said. He added: "The business is really going very well. We have

some excellent management. All financial institutions are going through a period of re-assessment, that is not unique to Barclays."

Sir Nigel also cast doubt on weekend accounts of the drama that led to Mr Taylor's departure. He described reports that the rift between the board and Mr Taylor stemmed from a clash a year ago with non-executive director Nigel Rudd over the BZW sale as one of the "more fictional elements".

City sources said last night that both Jon Foulis, the Halifax chairman, and Lloyd's Sir Brian Pitman will be watching developments closely to see if there is an opening that would allow them to make a successful bid approach. However, they warned that Sir Peter "was no pushover" and that the board believed that Barclays was a "great bank and should remain so" and was not about to surrender the bank's independence.

A key priority for Sir Peter will be to end the uncertainty that has plagued Barclays Capital, Barclays' bond trading business, since the Russian crisis. The group yesterday denied reports of a major cut but admitted that "it is no secret that there are strategic issues at Barclays Capital which have to be addressed".

Cuts as Deutsche unveils deal today

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

PLANS to slash at least \$1bn of costs over the next three years are expected to be announced when Germany's Deutsche Bank and Bankers Trust of America unveil the details of their \$9.5bn merger at the German bank's headquarters in Frankfurt today.

It is believed that Deutsche may have agreed to buy out up to \$600m of stock options held by senior Bankers Trust executives in order to secure their full backing for the deal.

As many as 3,000 jobs, many of them at Deutsche's American operations, could go. Job cuts in the City of London - where there is overlap between Deutsche, with 6,000 staff, and Bankers Trust's broking arm BT Alex Brown, with 2,500 - could amount to between 500 and 1,000, said analysts

SPORT

Squash: British champion is ready to assume the world throne which Jansher Khan made his own for a decade

Nicol relishes his date with destiny

IAN STAFFORD

HE GREETS you with a smile and a confident shake of the hand; the Scot who, in the space of a single year, has become a dominant force in world squash. The name Peter Nicol may not yet have the lasting gravitas of Jonah Barrington, at least not in this country, but you can be assured of one certainty. It soon will.

Barrington's name lives on in legendary status partly because he was the last British squash player to be crowned world champion, although in strict terms a world open did not exist in the early 1970s when the man interrupted the steady flow of Pakistani success.

Nicol should, and most probably will, lay this particular ghost to rest at this year's World Championships in Qatar, which begin on Saturday. Don't take anyone else's word for it, though. Take his instead.

"Yes, I should win it," he said, quite freely, "shouldn't I? I don't mind being the favourite at all. It tells me that I must have been playing well this year, and it underlines other people's expectations."

By anyone's sporting standards, Nicol has enjoyed a quite remarkable year. A top ranking in the world, a British Open title, to add to five others on the tour, and a Commonwealth Games gold medal have all come his relentless way. Any challengers to his lofty position seem, including the permanently injured Jansher Khan, to have fallen by the wayside.

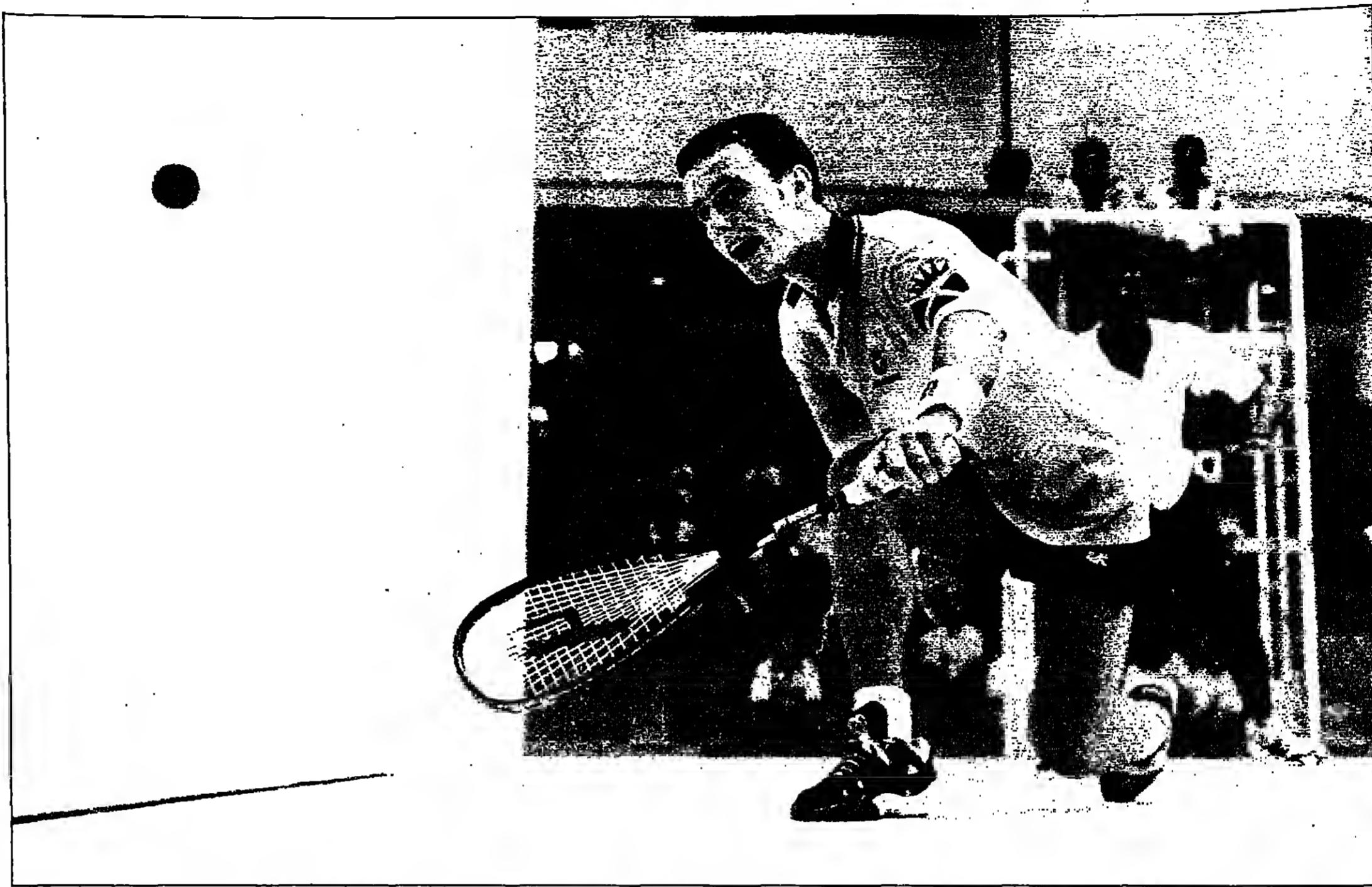
There remains now one last, solitary piece of the jigsaw to complete. The world title. If Nicol can continue his blistering run of form, then it is his. It would round off Nicol's omnibus mifitatis.

Yet one final doubt remains. He should have won the world title last year, but instead fell to Australia's Rodney Eyles in the final.

"People assume I am the world champion," he said with a wry smile. "I have to tell them that, although I am the world No 1, I am not actually the champion. Eyles was hungrier than me last year."

With Jansher withdrawing through injury, he saw it as his big, and possibly last, chance and he took it. It taught me a great lesson."

Which was what? "It showed me the proper way to prepare mentally for a major tournament. It made me understand that you have to be extra focussed for a major, and that,



Peter Nicol on his way to a Commonwealth Games gold medal this summer. This year he has also moved up to No 1 in the world rankings and won the British Open and five other titles

Allsport

however talented a player you may be, you have to want the title more than anyone else."

"Everything about playing in a major is harder, and the defeat made me understand the importance of the tournament, and the pressures that come with it. I didn't play particularly badly that week, nor in the final. But Eyles was amazing. He'd played poorly prior to the tournament but played great when it really mattered."

More success followed as Nicol set to work cementing his new-found status at the top of the world pile.

Most of his achievements were for himself, the benefits reaped from a brave decision seven years ago to leave his Aberdeen home and venture down to the bright lights of London to join the coach, Neil Harvey, at Chingford's Connaught Club, where an all-out campaign began to produce the player he is today.

As any sporting achiever will tell you, failure, however remote it may be, provides a great education. Nicol duly went on to beat Jansher Khan in the British Open final last Spring to notch up the first of what is promising to be a vast collection of major titles.

The lessons I learned from the world final defeat meant that I entered the British Open with a totally different mind-set. I was completely focused."

Lumpur was something very different. "It was huge," was how Nicol first put it. "Scotland only won three golds, and I was very privileged to be the first winner for my country. Some-

bogey man, proved to be the icing on the 25-year-old's cake. "I was so happy to have beaten him that it was all I could think of in the initial seconds after winning. Then I remem-

bered the final of the Heliopolis Open in Cairo. It sets the Scot up nicely for his final assault of the year. But what really makes Nicol the firm favourite to become world champion is his state of mind.

By his own admission, he felt uncomfortable at first with his new world ranking. "Jansher had been around for so long that I felt like an imposter," he admitted.

"Winning the British Open definitely helped me to relax. After losing both the British and World finals last year, it was obviously time for me to start winning again."

"I've only just started to feel comfortable about being the world No 1. Jansher was such a legend that it has taken a long

time to shake off his No 1 image. But he seems to be gone now, and the gap between me and the rest is growing by the week. I'm winning more and more tournaments, and there doesn't seem to be a great challenge, or at least not a lasting one, from anyone."

Really? "I think it must be pretty demoralising for some of the other players," Nicol continued. "They'd all waited for Jansher to go. I remember last year when Jansher withdrew from tournaments. Suddenly 10 or so players believed they stood a chance of winning. Incredibly, for squash, we all told each other this."

"Now I've suddenly accelerated away, and I intend fully to enjoy my own dominant patch. There is one, final reason why he believes he will place that final piece in his sporting jigsaw. "Jansher Khan ruled the squash world for a decade," he announces, as he trots off for yet more practice on the court. "That was his time. I think now it's my time."

Cor-blimey reflections of a diamond geezer

Harry Redknapp
My Autobiography
With Derek McGovern
Harper Collins £12.99 hardback

THIS NEWSPAPER'S diarist, Pandora, speculated last week that Harry Redknapp had been offered the vacant manager's post at Blackburn, sweetened by a sizable increase in salary. It had, after all, been a bad week for the West Ham manager, fuming from the sale of Andy Impey to Leicester City without his knowledge. His mood would not have been improved by having publicly to gulp down bumble pie after venting his fury at the board.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

That Harry did not return Pandora's calls was probably because he thought some foreign agent was trying to offend another dodgy Romanian, and he has had more than enough experience of being kicked in the Balkans.

There is not much that Redknapp has not experienced in his years of playing and managing. But the torrid days of West Ham United Nations - a ransackable collection of knock-down journeymen from all des-

tinations east and west of Dagenham - are long gone.

In short, Harry is different class and West Ham, these days, are different class too thanks to his endeavours. Which, in Harry's diamond geezer lexicon - captured expertly by ghostwriter Derek McGovern - is praise indeed. But while Redknapp can be proud of his achievements in elevating the Hammers to Premiership respectability, his career path in the most transient of trades has not so much been rocky as often dug up and diverted into a dead end.

It is the stuff of rich memoirs, ripe with anecdote and leavened with wry humour. A playing career that began alongside the World Cup legends of Hurst, Peters and Moore at Upton Park was diverted to Bournemouth via a spell in Seattle and a sting in Phoenix. A traffic accident in 1994 claimed the life of his friend, Brian Tiler, and left Redknapp for dead on an Italian roadside. Football as life and death: Harry has first-hand experience.

Such vagaries of fortune would temper most souls' passion for the game, but not Redknapp's. Anyone who has witnessed his agonising touch-

line twitchery that borders on the epileptic in moments of stress is familiar with a man unable to watch a match with calm detachment.

Redknapp's honesty means that this book would never have been a dull read. He does not so much wear his heart on his sleeve as thrust it pulsing into the reader's face.

Tales abound of Romanians who would rather shop than play, of his feeling the pressure so intensely that he was unable to turn his head to reverse the car out of the garage, of bust-ups with players and fellow managers - the rollercoaster

ride of life among the game's elite managers. Not that Redknapp is complaining, and he appears able to retain his cor-blimey affability throughout the most testing times.

Redknapp acknowledges that by succeeding Billy Bonds as West Ham manager in 1994 it cost him a precious friendship. It is the sort of poignant admission that is rarely a part of footballing hagiography and while this book will never be a contender for one of those fancy-dan sports book awards, it provides a vivid picture of Harry's game.

Andrew Martin

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
 - European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95).
 - Back Home: How the World Watched France 98 (WSC Books, paperback, £9.99).
 - The Carling Ultimate Football Guide 1998, edited by Mike Williams (Sky Blue Publications, paperback, £14.95).
 - My Autobiography, Harry Redknapp with Derek McGovern (Collins Willow, hardback £16.99).
 - Shark Among Dolphins, Steve Hubbard (Ballantine Books, paperback, £5.50).
 - The New Ball: The Best in New Cricket Writing Vol 1, edited by Rob Steen (Two Head, paperback, £1.99).
 - Unbeatable: The Historic Season of the 1998 New York Yankees, George King (HarperSports, paperback, £5.50).
 - An Arm and Four Legs, Stan Hey (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £15.00).
 - TD, Terrell Davis with Adam Scheiter (Harper Collins, hardback, £19.95).
- Chart compiled by SportsPages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604), St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 8530) and at www.sportspages.co.uk

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The Williams age beckons

THE AGE of Venetia Williams is almost as big a mystery in racing as the disappearance of Shergar.

The Hereford trainer refuses to divulge the statistic in racing's *Directory of the Turf*; she thanks enquirers to mind their manners when asked the old question. The age detectives, however, have been on the job and 35 looks a worthy favourite.

That means we have a lot of this particular trainer to come. A Ms V Williams with braces in her teeth, like a similar figure in tennis, looks likely to dominate her arena in the years ahead. On Saturday, Venetia became only the second woman, after Jenny Pitman, to collect a Hennessy Gold Cup and the conjecture that she might straddle the game as effectively as Mrs P is now hardly fanciful notion.

Venetia Williams has been trained well. She rode 10 winners as an amateur and even competed in a Grand National, the marathon of 1988 when she and Marcole partied at Becher's Brook and the two-legged member of the partnership was knocked unconscious. Two weeks later, Williams broke her neck in a hurdle race and, after

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

analysis, decided someone was riding her to tell her something. The riding boots went in the attic.

In a new life, on the side of the rails, Williams was astute about her tutors. For seven years she learned at the knee of John Edwards. There were also masterclasses with Martin Pipe, Colin Hayes in Australia, and Barry Hills. Venetia Williams may now have only had a licence for three seasons but, it seems, the pupil may soon be the master.

"Venetia puts her heart into the job and she deserves this big winner."

Williamson managed to save a stent to Teetot Mill's feet. "All the way I was very happy with him," the jockey said. "He was on and off the bridle, but every time I moved he jumped into my hands straight away. Oh my God, I thought, I've got a lot of horse here."

Teetot Mill was with the main body of the field, fifth or sixth on the inside, for the first circuit. Steadily, the old grey fox crept closer and he would have been hard to detect had it not been for his colouring.

Then it became a two-horse race. Eddie took it up down the back on the last lap and burned off all but one horse. Teetot Mill was not flammable. By the entrance to the straight Williamson knew he had it won and was looking disdainfully over a shoulder. Rather oddly, "Starman" was waving his whip in a parabola of celebration from 100 yards out.

There were questions answered and questions posed. Teetot Mill is as short as 10-1 for the Grand National and 14-1 for the Gold Cup, and one is certain how far he can go. He has participated in only eight starts under rules yet he will be 10 in month's time. This is truly a late flowering.

"You always hope he's going to be better than this but, at the moment, he's still a handicapper," Williamson said. "If you put 12st on his back and 12st on Suny Bay's back I know who would be favourite. Teetot Mill would probably be 50-1 shot."

"But he can only keep improving. He's been a hunter-chaser most of his life and now he's got a different training regime and more professional riding, so you never know."

Venetia Mary Williams has

more time on her side even if she will not tell us exactly how much has already gone. The shyness perfect described Teetot Mill thus: "He's very much his own man. In the stable he'll pull a face at you and he'll give you a nipp if you do the wrong thing at the wrong time. But he does his work exactly as you want him to do. He's an absolute professional! She's no amateur herself."

Dennis is disappointed with Osborne tactics

WALTER DENNIS yesterday hinted that he was unhappy with Jamie Osborne's riding of Coome Hill in the Hennessy. "It was somewhat disappointing," Dennis said. "It was probably at the ground and the weight and he had a hit too much used made of him early on."

"It was an extraordinary race with so many good horses pulled up like Call It A Day and The Tolseach. Those who went off in front didn't get home and we probably set the race up for Teetot Mill."

Osborne defended his tactics: "I know the horse very well and I felt that for him to have every chance of winning it needed to be a true test of stamina. Unfortunately he wasn't capable of maintaining a gallop. When he won the race [in 1996] I went off in front – unfortunately it didn't work yesterday."

"I have discussed it with Walter and there is no animosity between us. I don't think

Coome Hill at his best could have given a stone and 5lb to Teetot Mill yesterday."

Dennis will now prepare Coome Hill for a tilt at the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day while Teetot Mill may return to action in Ascot's Bettlewe Cup on 19 December.

The Hennessy favourite, Seven Towers, may have lost his chance jumping the first fence it emerged yesterday.

Mary Reveyelle helene the gelding may have trapped a serve in his back at the first of the 21 obstacles. Seven Towers

was always behind and was well adrift when pulled up seven fences from home.

"He twisted at the fist fence and never took a cut or galloped after that," Reveyelle said. "He has run like that before and it is nothing serious. He could well still go for the Welsh National. It's desperately disappointing but the money that went on him wasn't mine – thank goodness."

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

1.05 Kingsmark	2.35 Alnsi Solt II
1.35 Moonshine Bay	3.05 Rightsalidred (nb)
2.05 Iron N Gold	3.35 Roborette
GODINE Chade - Plat - Good to Soft Hurdle course - Soft, 1.05m, 3.5m, 4.5m, 5.5m, 6.5m, 7.5m, 8.5m, 9.5m, 10.5m, 11.5m, 12.5m, 13.5m, 14.5m, 15.5m, 16.5m, 17.5m, 18.5m, 19.5m, 20.5m, 21.5m, 22.5m, 23.5m, 24.5m, 25.5m, 26.5m, 27.5m, 28.5m, 29.5m, 30.5m, 31.5m, 32.5m, 33.5m, 34.5m, 35.5m, 36.5m, 37.5m, 38.5m, 39.5m, 40.5m, 41.5m, 42.5m, 43.5m, 44.5m, 45.5m, 46.5m, 47.5m, 48.5m, 49.5m, 50.5m, 51.5m, 52.5m, 53.5m, 54.5m, 55.5m, 56.5m, 57.5m, 58.5m, 59.5m, 60.5m, 61.5m, 62.5m, 63.5m, 64.5m, 65.5m, 66.5m, 67.5m, 68.5m, 69.5m, 70.5m, 71.5m, 72.5m, 73.5m, 74.5m, 75.5m, 76.5m, 77.5m, 78.5m, 79.5m, 80.5m, 81.5m, 82.5m, 83.5m, 84.5m, 85.5m, 86.5m, 87.5m, 88.5m, 89.5m, 90.5m, 91.5m, 92.5m, 93.5m, 94.5m, 95.5m, 96.5m, 97.5m, 98.5m, 99.5m, 100.5m, 101.5m, 102.5m, 103.5m, 104.5m, 105.5m, 106.5m, 107.5m, 108.5m, 109.5m, 110.5m, 111.5m, 112.5m, 113.5m, 114.5m, 115.5m, 116.5m, 117.5m, 118.5m, 119.5m, 120.5m, 121.5m, 122.5m, 123.5m, 124.5m, 125.5m, 126.5m, 127.5m, 128.5m, 129.5m, 130.5m, 131.5m, 132.5m, 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633.5m, 634.5m, 635.5m, 636.5m, 637.5m, 638.5m, 639.5m, 640.5m, 641.5m, 642.5m, 643.5m, 644.5m, 645.5m, 646.5m, 647.5m, 648.5m, 649.5m, 650.5m, 651.5m,	

gras

Second Test: Hick provides a rare highlight as the tourists' batsmen undo their bowlers' good work

England pay for missed chances

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Perth

England 112 and 126-5
Australia 240

match and many seasoned Pomsphobes have been heard murmuring their approval. But if he took the bulk of the wickets, Darren Gough (whose second-day spell was a superb 15-8-12-2) and Alan Mullally were equally impressive.

England's cricket against Australia has resembled many things over the past decade, few of them flattering. This Test it has been something akin to a defrosting vindaloo - cold one minute, hot the next. However, one aspect of the game that has been entirely consistent has been the abysmal catching and the gulf that exists between England, who spilled five decent chances, and Australia

THE SCHIZOPHRENIC nature of England's cricket largely thought to have gone into remission under Alec Stewart, has resurfaced in Perth. In a remarkable first two days that did not require the close attention of a pitch inspector, 25 wickets fell as ball dominated bat.

At one stage, after England's second innings had limped to 40 for 4, a two-day finish looked possible. This has happened only once since the War On that occasion Australia beat New Zealand in Wellington, a victory achieved in just eight-and-a-half hours of playing time. By all accounts the pitch was a pig, an assessment not applicable here in Perth, where the only movement, apart from some swaying, has been vertical.

The pitch at the WACA has long been an acquired taste among batsmen unused to its quirks. Quicker than just about any surface on earth, its trampoline bounce disconcerts and exposes those with flawed temperaments and techniques. Unsurprisingly England's batsmen have come second on both counts and only a spirited return by the bowlers yesterday and a brilliant cameo by Graeme Hick prevented widespread derision.

As bowling fightbacks go against Australia, it was fairly heroic stuff. In the past, the wheels have been known to come off in similar circumstances and it would not have been surprising if England's attack had allowed Australia to post a big enough total to contemplate bat-batting just once.

That they managed only 240 owed much to the debutant Alex Tudor, whose hostile post-lunch spell brought him four wickets, his first two being the impressive double of the Waugh twins.

Tudor, a bold selection for which the selectors must be applauded, has not looked out of place with either bat or ball in this

Taking your chances, especially against opponents as robust as these, is vital. As in Brisbane, Steve Waugh was twice missed before he was 30, chances that, if not simple, tend to be snatched by the home side. Mind you, considering that Mark Taylor should have been given out lbw second ball to Gough for nought on Saturday, parity on first innings, had England taken their chances, they would not have been too far fetched.

Like a volatile stock market, England's gains are often devolved into losses and what the bowlers clawed back after the batting had been routed on Saturday was quickly put into perspective when England batted again. Only a late rally by Hick, batting as he does for Worcestershire, gave England supporters anything to cheer as Australia again knocked over England's top five cheaply.

Hick, on a pair following his second-ball duck on Saturday, played some extraordinary



Delight for Australia, but despair for England as John Crawley is caught by Justin Langer at short square leg off Colin Miller. Allsport

shots. With his, and England's, options closing by the minute, Hick blazed away furiously, and twice pulled Jason Gillespie for huge sizes.

Hick has always looked a better player going for his strokes. A mental eitherer, he needs the situation to be clear-cut and grey areas simply bring out the worst in him. So often an English pro's view on Test cricket is one of limiting damage rather than inflicting it. For once Hick got it right and Gillespie, trying to intimidate him, took the brunt of the punishment, as the paceman conceded 68 runs in just nine overs.

It was a thrilling finale to a day that began soggily as Australia tried to grind their way to an indomitable position. Made to struggle by England's disciplined and aggressive bowling, the home side added just 44 runs in 30 overs. With England having little to

show for their pressure save the wicket of the nightwatchman Gillespie, and with the Wauchs established at the crease, the prognosis looked bleak, especially when Steve Waugh drove Tudor, now yielding the second new ball, for three fours in successive balls.

It would have been enough to break many rookies but Tudor tugged a gear and, shortening his length a notch, jagged one back through his defences to hit the top of middle-and-off. If that was a notable first spell, he virtually trumpeted it in his next over when he had brother Mark, never looking comfortable, caught at third slip driving at an outswinger.

Meanwhile, Gough, who has endured more dropped catches than anyone, removed the dangerous Ian Healy with an inswinger though not before he had been dropped by Dominic Cork in the gully off Tudor.

Fired by his belated success, Gough immediately removed Damien Fleming with his next ball to set up a hat-trick, a threat McGrath negotiated with a straight bat.

Not long after Gough joined the band of culprits when he put down Ricky Ponting off Tudor at fine leg after the Tasmanian had top-edged his hook shot. Revenge was quick, though, and the youngster removed Ponting and McGrath with two sharp bouncers to end his first bowl for England with the heartening figures of 4 for 89.

More remarkable, perhaps, is that Australia, in a batting performance that matched England's for carelessness, lost their last six wickets after lunch for just 31 runs. Yet, what ground England reclaim, they just as easily yield and, having succumbed to Fleming's subtle swingers in the first

innings, they again fell as he wobbled the ball about into the breeze.

Mark Butcher, following his century in the last Test, did not last long and he followed his first-innings dismissal, caught behind pushing at Fleming, with an almost identical one in the second. Nesser Hussain, a host of poor decisions against him recently, promptly received another after umpire Daryl Harper, standing in his first Test, gave him out lbw.

Harper was the one who decided Taylor was out to Gough for nought, a decision, considering Taylor scored 61, that cost England dear.

Stewart, no doubt fired from both keeping and captaincy, was quickly dispatched for nought, his flat-footed drive off the back foot never covering the swing and the bounce as the edge flew to first slip, where Taylor took it.

At that point England were 15 for 3 and contemplating ridicule when Atherton began to play a few shots. Twice hooking McGrath for a brace of fours, and driving Fleming, he played more fluently than he has of late. When he was out, again showing the bowler half a bat instead of the whole face, at least it was not McGrath pinching the sir.

In fact McGrath went wicketless and it was Colin Miller, getting John Crawley to pop one up to short leg, who broke Fleming's impressive sequence. With Rampakash playing the barnacle and Hick blasting away, 50 was added for the sixth wicket to take England to within two runs of erasing the deficit.

In the context of the match, 128 runs is a huge handicap to overcome. Having incurred it, though, England have largely themselves to blame.

It was a tough grind after that. The opener Clayton Lamberti needed 114 balls and nearly three hours over 33, Hooper spent two hours and 90 balls over 34 and the left-handed wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs just under three hours and 126 balls for a resolute 42.

The innings was wrapped up as the last three wickets tumbled in three balls.

Fourth day: West Indies won toss.

ENGLAND - First Innings (Saturday, 150 for 3)

M A Waugh c Butcher b Fleming ... 1

M A Atherton c Taylor b Fleming ... 35

N Hussain lbw b Fleming 1

D M Miller c Langer b Miller 14

J A Tait c Langer b Miller 33

R J Hick c Langer b Miller 6

A C Laramore c Taylor b Miller 12

S C Chanderpaul lbw b Miller 1

C S Williams c Hobbs b Miller 12

E J Richardson c Taylor b Miller 15

C L Hooper c Taylor b Miller 34

R N Lewis c Hobbs b Miller 10

N A McLean c Culham b Symonds 11

C A Walsh c Hobbs b Miller 0

P A Wallace c Hobbs b Miller 14

T M Head c Hobbs b Miller 7

S Chanderpaul lbw b Miller 1

S C Williams c Hobbs b Miller 7

E J Richardson c Hobbs b Miller 15

C L Hooper c Hobbs b Miller 1

R N Lewis c Hobbs b Miller 10

N A McLean c Culham b Symonds 11

C A Walsh c Hobbs b Miller 0

P A Wallace c Hobbs b Miller 14

T M Head c Hobbs b Miller 7

S Chanderpaul lbw b Miller 1

S C Williams c Hobbs b Miller 7

E J Richardson c Hobbs b Miller 15

C L Hooper c Hobbs b Miller 1

R N Lewis c Hobbs b Miller 10

N A McLean c Culham b Symonds 11

C A Walsh c Hobbs b Miller 0

P A Wallace c Hobbs b Miller 14

T M Head c Hobbs b Miller 7

S Chanderpaul lbw b Miller 1

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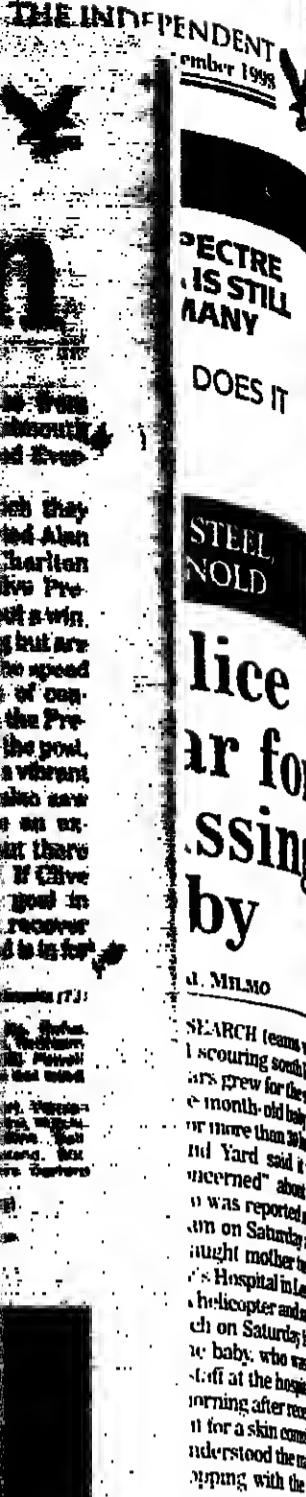
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SPORT

NICOL AIMS TO SQUASH THE WORLD P18 • TUDOR'S STYLISH DEBUT P23

Premiership: Late goal earns point for champions while Manchester United struggle to subdue spirited opponents

Anelka rescues shaky Arsenal

BY GLENN MOORE

Arsenal 1
Middlesbrough 1

parture, after an hour, had been a factor in Arsenal's eventual domination of possession and added: "He's not trained Sunday, Monday and Tuesday because he was having treatment and had also taken a couple of knocks. He did well and his fitness is improving."

Gascoigne, whose treatment

related to his alcohol problem, was playing his first match against Arsenal since the 1991 FA Cup semi-final when his memorable goal from a 35-yard free-kick helped Tottenham to victory. He did nothing as dramatic yesterday but dovetailed neatly with Robbie Mustoe and Andy Townsend in a disciplined Boro midfield.

Then fatigue set in, he reduced his sphere of influence to the centre circle and was found wanting for pace when booked for a late tackle. Shortly afterwards Robson withdrew him. It was, nevertheless, a promising display even though the booking, his eighth of the season, could rule him out of next month's trip to Old Trafford.

Boro, too, are looking much healthier after traumatic previous experiences at this level.

"It is a measure of how far we've come that we have a squad of players who are disappointed at getting a point at Arsenal," Bryan Robson said. "They were pushing players forward and we should have punished them. We could have killed them off and we need to work on our counter-attacking."

Robson felt Gascoigne's de-



Middlesbrough's Paul Gascoigne tries to get to grips with Ray Parlour, of Arsenal, during yesterday's 1-1 draw at Highbury

Allsport

They had begun brightly, as befits a team on the rise, and their confidence contrasted sharply with Arsenal's lack of belief.

The gulf inevitably widened after Boro scored. Townsend, sporting an unfeasibly dark and glossy mane, and Andy Townsend, with Boro guarding the area in numbers, most of the attacks either founders or ended in 20-yard pot shots, none of which were strong enough, or accurate enough, to

Had Deane converted an even better chance 10 minutes later the contest would have been settled but Arsenal perked up and Middlesbrough gradually pulled back the wagons and invited them on. With Boro guarding the area in numbers, most of the attacks either founders or ended in 20-yard pot shots, none of which were strong enough, or accurate enough, to

trouble a goalkeeper as large and agile as Mark Schwarzer. Instead it was Boro who carved out the best chance. Gordon crossing from the left after 71 minutes, only for Mikkel Beck to head wide from six yards.

Wenger brought on Luis Boa

Morte and Fabian Caballero, a young striker of mixed Spanish-Argentine-Paraguayan nationality, and pushed Marc

Overmars and Steve Bould into attack. It seemed to no avail and the increasingly restless crowd began leaving by their thousands when Remi Garde put successive shots high into the North Bank. Then he got another chance and, this time, chipped forward. Bould's faint touch carried to Anelka who scored off the bar.

"We didn't deserve to lose

because we showed character," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "I'm pleased for Anelka, he has had criticism but he showed he fights."

Anelka was not the only player jeered by a support with short memories and Wenger added: "Maybe we gave them too much last year; when you are used to caviar it is difficult to go back to sausages."

Goals: Deane (0-1); Anelka (0-1). Arsenal (1-0-2); Seaman, Dohrn, Keown, Bould, Winterburn (Wes), 11; Unsworth (Caballero, 75), Parlour, Garde, Overmars, Anelka, Welsh (Boa, Morten, 63); Substitutes: Townsend, Beck, Townsend, Morris, 18; Middlesbrough (0-2); Schwarzen, Coker, Vickers, Puleyer; Fleming, Mustoe, Gascoigne (Maddison, 66), Townsend, Gordon, Dean, Summerfield, 90; Board (Beck, 60); Substitutes not used: Baker, Beresford (84).
Referee: G Barber (Wing). Bookings: Arsenal: Bould, Garde, Middlesbrough: Cooper, Gascoigne. Man of the match: Musco. Attendance: 36,075.

Butt's strike is too good for suffering Leeds

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Manchester United 3
Leeds United 2

That sent Leeds back across the Pennines empty-handed, but they emerged with great credit from this game. From time to time, their vocal wedge of supporters at Old Trafford sang "Batty's coming home"; there was a good deal of that returning prodigal's tigerish determination in this display, unrewarded as ultimately was.

A Leeds defence already lacking several key members was under heavy pressure even before the loss of two more in

the first half. Martin Bidden was stretched off with a knee injury and almost immediately Nigel Martyn hurt his back getting his fingertips to Butt's goalbound header to divert it on to the bar.

Concern over those events was lifted somewhat when, completely against the run of play, the visitors took the lead.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink took a pass from Harry Kewell to the left of the goal, and with Phil Neville failing to close him down, fired in a low right-footed strike that cannoned in off the post.

Martyn tried to soldier on and Leeds even had a chance to dou-

ble their lead when Kewell lobbed wide of an exposed target. With half-time approaching however, Roy Keane back-tracked to keep an attack moving. Dwight Yorke ran at the defence and released Ole Gunnar Solskjær for the Norwegian to beat the struggling Martyn from an acute angle.

It was no surprise that the England goalkeeper failed to reappear for the second half and within 20 seconds of replacing him Robinson, Leeds' third choice in the position, was picking the ball out of the net.

Not that Martyn or anyone else could have done a great deal about it, such was the precision engineering of the goal. Butt's magnificent cross-field pass found Paul Scholes, who twisted Ian Harte in all directions before getting in a low cross from the byline. There could be few more daunting sights for a newly-arrived goalkeeper than Keane bearing down on the ball to smash it into the roof of the net from 10 yards out.

That should have been the signal for United to take a more assured control of proceedings, but this was a performance from them that was just like the newly relayed playing surface - loose and uneven.

But, after Kewell had missed

Within six minutes, a plucky Leeds were level again, Wes Brown's slip allowing Kewell through and a neat chip leaving Schmeichel helpless. A Manchester side from which David Beckham, Jesper Blomqvist and Denis Irwin were rested after their Barcelona epic called up the reinforcements in a bid to win it. Three recent absences all got into the action: Ryan Giggs and Teddy Sheringham as tactical changes and Henning Berg out of necessity when Jaap Stam finally succumbed to a virus.

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But, after Kewell had missed

an opportunity to put Leeds back in front, it was one of the constant factors in the ebb and flow of this game, the excellent Butt, who made the crucial move with his first goal of the season.

"He's had a mixed season and hasn't really had a run at it. He was always a threat and he deserved his goal because he persevered all day," said an admiring Alex Ferguson, who described Leeds' performance as their best at Old Trafford for a long time.

"Leeds deserved a lot of credit. They played very positively and it was a good test for us considering the exertions of the week."

For David O'Leary there was some consolation in defeat. "You need your full 11 when you come here," he said. "But we can get on the coach and know that we gave a good account of ourselves."

Goals: Hasselbaink (20-0-1); Schmeichel (21-0-1); Kewell (52) 2-2; Butt (77) 3-2.

Manchester United 1-0-2; Schmeichel; Brown; Stam (Berg, 76); G Neville; Keane; Butt; Vokes; Cole (Sheringham, 71);

Kewell; Harte; Huddlestone (Webber, 21); Woodgate; Hartle; Haaland; Hopkins; McPhail; Rounse; Smith; 84); Hasselbaink; Vokes (substitutes not used: Winfield, Granville).

Referee: G Poll (Harrow). Bookings: United: 1-0; Neville, Leeds, Haaland, Ribeiro. Man of the match: Butt. Attendance: 55,172.

Batty's Leeds return is imminent

DAVID BATTY is almost certain to become a Leeds United player over the next two days. The Newcastle midfielder's advisor said yesterday that he has cancelled all appointments over the next 48 hours in an effort to rush through Batty's £4.5m move.

"I'm expecting Leeds and Newcastle to contact one another tomorrow," Hayden Evans said. "We'll just sit tight

and wait for Newcastle to say 'Go and talk to Leeds'."

Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit said yesterday that players should consider going on strike because of the amount of football they are expected to play.

"What can we do?" he said.

"Well, we could do what they did

in Italy and stop playing - but

top players in England are

scared of the FA.

"Too much alcohol kills the

body, too much cocaine kills the body, too much love kills the body. In fact too much of anything kills the body that's why too much football will kill the game."

Tramp Group Limited, a private international trading company based in Bromley, Kent, announced yesterday that they are to invest in Crystal Palace. The company will make substantial sums avail-

able to the club, and will be represented on the board.

"We have been impressed by [chairman] Mark Goldberg's vision for the club and his undoubtedly commitment and energy, and we look forward to working with him," a spokesman for Tramp said.

Goldberg said: "I'm standing by our five-year plan."

JPR blows whistle on 'rife' use of drugs

WELSH RUGBY officials are to investigate drug abuse allegations made by the former Wales and Lions full-back JPR Williams.

Williams, part of Wales' all-conquering team in the 1970s, is among a clutch of internationals, including England's Jonathan Webb and Jeff Probyn, who have voiced concerns about drugs and their sport.

"Taking banned substances is fairly rife, and most of it is done in the off-season," Williams said.

"It is fairly well recognised that certain players have been

appearances for his country, heard mixed reactions from the Welsh Rugby Union.

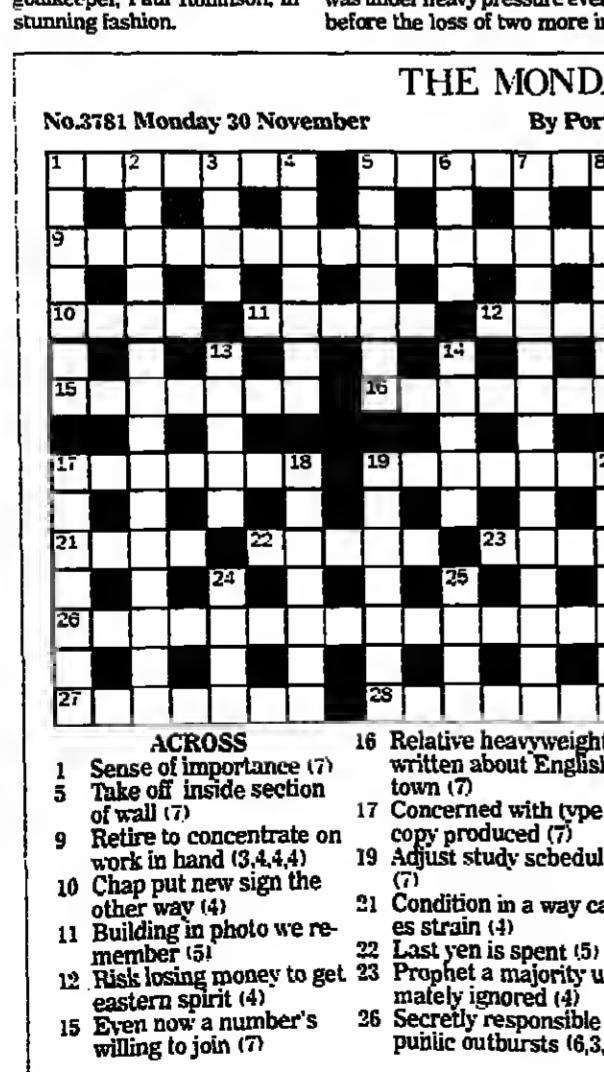
"JPR's accusations are obviously serious ones, and it does seem strange that he has not voiced his concern directly to the Union," said a WRU spokesman.

"The imminent leaves an unsatisfactory feel about it, and it is now down to the Union to

follow through on what has been alleged and to ascertain what substance the 'rife' is to JPR's concern."

Williams' fears were confirmed by former England and Lions prop Mike Burton, who said: "Drugs are a problem. It is obvious from some of the body shapes you see."

No English-based players have yet tested positive for drug abuse, but positive tests were carried out on Richie Griffiths, the former Wales B and South Wales Police centre, and the ex-Liverpool forward, Paul Jones,



THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3781 Monday 30 November

By Portia

- 27 Furthest edge is over the top (7)
28 Express journalist having little time for dog (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Mass medium about to introduce colour (7)
 - 2 Father had potato dish without delay (2,3,4,2,1,3)
 - 3 Excellent return when operating within island (3)
 - 4 Talk on fury animal found in France (7)
 - 5 Fixed before to bring in new show (7)
 - 6 Audibly regretted being offensive (4)
 - 7 Extortionate insurance premium (10,5)
 - 8 One isn't in a state of suspense (7)
 - 13 Academic's so radical (5)
 - 14 Bright young boy, by the sound of it (5)
 - 17 Pay increase cut by one lawyer - it's ludicrous (7)
 - 18 Plenty may be seen in it (7)
 - 19 Cut them to save on time (7)
 - 20 Is practice doctor about to be badly treated? (7)
 - 21 Condition in a way causes strain (4)
 - 22 Last yen is spent (5)
 - 23 Prophet a majority ultimately ignored (4)
 - 24 Somebody caught breaking in - not again (4)
 - 25 Problem storing carbon dress (4)
- ACROSS
- 1 Sense of importance (7)
 - 5 Take off inside section of wall (7)
 - 9 Retire to concentrate on work in hand (3,4,4)
 - 10 Chap put new sign the other way (4)
 - 11 Building in photo we remember (5)
 - 12 Risk losing money to get eastern spirit (4)
 - 15 Even now a number's willing to join (7)
 - 16 Relative heavyweight's written about English town (7)
 - 17 Concerned with type of copy produced (7)
 - 19 Adjust study schedule (7)
 - 21 Condition in a way causes strain (4)
 - 22 Last yen is spent (5)
 - 23 Prophet a majority ultimately ignored (4)
 - 25 Secretly responsible for public outbursts (6,3,6)

You could think flying via Zurich to many European cities took longer than via Frankfurt or Amsterdam? Wrong.

swissair

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John Lloyd

THE INDEPENDENT

30 November 1998

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Tom Plinton

Leeds. Life's a Sunset Beach

She was going to be the next Elizabeth Taylor. These days Lesley-Anne Down takes work where she finds it – right now, it's in the best daytime soap opera since 'Crossroads'

So here she is, then, Lesley-Anne Down, once "Britain's Most Beautiful Teenager" and once, of course, the flighty, ravishing, utterly captivating Miss Georgia Worley in *Upstairs, Downstairs*. I can still see her now, in her little sparkling blue dress, with those big sparkling eyes, flitting outrageously with someone jolly handsome in the Eaton Place drawing room, Tres, downstairs. Mrs Bridges was bellowing: "RUBY! ROO-BEEEEE! YOU COME AND HELP ME WITH THIS MILK PUDDING NOW, MY GIRL!" The part quickly transformed her into the nation's, and the tabloids', absolute darling. She may even have been Elizabeth Hurley before there was any Elizabeth Hurley. The prototype, if you like. And very, very big things were predicted for her: "The next Elizabeth Taylor," declared the *Daily Mail* in 1973. But today? Today she is not a great big movie star. Instead, she is Olivia Richards in the American daytime soap

Sunset Beach.

Now, let's see, how best to give you a little thumbnail-sketch of Olivia? OK. Here goes. Olivia used to have a drink problem, and also used to be married to Gregory Richards, played by a cracking actor who can do lines, and facial expressions, but singularly fails to ever tie the two in together. Olivia has a baby son, Tres, unknown to her grown-up daughter, Caitlin, who is a graduate (cum laude) of The American School of Dramatic Hair Tossing – they are all, actually, very good at tossing, but Caitlin's the best – and who thinks Tres came from a prostitute. Caitlin certainly doesn't think Tres could be her brother, or might even be her half-brother because Olivia once had an affair with Cole, who suffers under the weight of a great deal of hair gel and thus looks permanently perplexed, and who is now married to Caitlin, while Gregory is now married to Annie, who has lips like dingsies and who drugged Olivia and stole Tres in the first place before Olivia found out, and Gregory divorced her because he thought Tres died as a result of her drinking. And that's about it. I think: Tragically, *Sunset Beach* is only on here at 10.20am on Channel 5 which means that, for a busy, professional, go-getting high-brow like me, I only ever get to see it daily.

Now, I know what you're thinking. You're thinking: "Look what Lesley-Anne has come to?" And: "Where did it all go pear-shaped?" Well, if that's the case, and I suspect it is, then I can only say you are mad. *Sunset Beach* is, almost certainly, the best thing on telly at the moment. Indeed, for anyone who has had, say, a *Crossroads*-shaped hole in their lives ever since *Crossroads* was axed, then *Sunset Beach* is just the ticket, and possibly more so. The plots are ludicrous, the acting is appalling and, as for the dialogue! Well, take Olivia to her ex, Gregory, while they are stuck in a lift, and he's coming on to her, because he's unknowingly



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

been doped with Viagra, and she finds herself succumbing. "LOVE [breath] ME [breath] GREGORY [long breath]. LOVE [breath] MET" It's all you could ever hope for, frankly, and no Benny in his silly bobble hat, which has to be a plus.

I say all this to Lesley-Anne. She is not offended in the least.

She has, she says, never considered herself an artiste in any way.

Do you think you can act, even? "God, no. Absolutely not. But if

someone pays me to do something, I will do it to the best of my ability, and on Mars if necessary." How would you describe what you do in *Sunset Beach*? "Technique. Just full-blown technique!

Although it's very hard work, darling. We average four scenes

an hour. We don't rehearse. It's brush your hair then boom-boom-boom, you're doing it." So, in short, it's a matter of trying not to fall over the props, then waiting for the truck to come round with your wages? "It is certainly much better paid than *Upstairs, Downstairs* ever was!" She says she now takes her jobs where she can find them. She once did a season in *Dallas* as PR Stephanie Rogers. "Why? Because they offered me a quarter of a million dollars for seven days' work over 10 weeks. What do you think I am, darling? STUPID?" Still, she agrees that "Who shot JR?"

might be up there with "Is Any Turtle a Russian spy?" as one of the greatest soap storylines ever. "Was she a Russian spy?" she asks. I say she got off in the end, but frankly, I always had my doubts. There always looked like room for a *Kalashnikov* under her ponytail, to me. "I see," says Lesley-Anne. "Hmmm."

Although she now lives in the very *Hello!* territory that is Malibu – Jane Seymour lives round the corner. Her kids came trick or treating the other night! – she is over here for a few days, so we meet in her London hotel suite. We are joined, at various times, by Lesley-Anne's younger sister, Angela, Lesley-Anne's husband, Donnie, and her and Donnie's eight-month-old son, George, who seems to have black teeth ("We think the housekeeper is feeding him juice"), plus a succession of chambermaids who knock then come in to say: "Hiya, Olivia. I just wanted to say hiya, and maybe I could have a photo, Olivia?" "Maybe a little later, sweetie."

ie," says Lesley-Anne, who isn't even very good at acting friend-
ly sometimes. Later she complains: "This has been going on end-
lessly. In fact, when I first arrived here a few days ago, I went
out in the evening. I was knackered. I looked awful. I wore a big
hat – but still everyone in the street was shouting, 'Ohhhh, Olivia!
And 'Ohhh, Sunset Beach'. I don't understand it. It is such a silly
little show."

Nonsense, I protest. It's a terrific show. In particular, I love the strange kind of time warp that goes on, so that a character knocks on a door; then 139 episodes later someone finally answers it. I like the fact that there are only ever two camera angles. I like the fact it makes Santa Barbara look slick. I like... "Oh, stop," pleads Lesley-Anne. Her sister Angela interrupts to say she thinks Lesley-Anne is a better actress than she thinks she is. "You were very good in *Hanover Street* with Harrison Ford," she insists.

"But that was such romantic drivel, darling!" Lesley-Anne cries.

"Trouble is, that film didn't know whether it wanted to be a war

story or a love story," says Donnie.

"Ag-ga-ga-ga-goo," goes George, through his spooky, rotten

teeth.

I say that, aside from anything else, she did do truly great cleavage in the American mini-series *North and South*. She can at least feel proud of that. She says: "That wasn't cleavage! That was my spare tyre being pushed up!" Lesley-Anne is possibly rather bonkers. But, still, she can be quite bright and funny at times.

She is now 44, but is still very fine looking, with the huge green sparkling eyes, and great bones and everything, although she might be a bit over-made-up. You know, lots of black round the eyes and lashes so mascara-ed they look crunchy. She has so far resisted plastic surgery, "but only because Donnie won't let me".

"Roy Orbison died on the table getting a face-lift," retorts Donnie.

"It is a life-threatening operation."

Donnie, her third husband, is a cameraman whom she met on the set of *North and South*. Lesley-Anne seems to have spent much of her life going from one bloke to another, actually. First it was Bruce Robinson, the actor who turned writer (*The Killing Fields*) then writer-director (*Withnail and I*, *How to Get Ahead in Advertising*) and with whom she lived with for 10 years from the age of 15. Next it was an Argentine, Henrique Gabriel, an assistant director whom she met in Egypt on a film set, and whom she married on a whim, but left after 18 months for William Friedkin. She married Friedkin, the director of *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*, and together they had a son, Jack. But when Jack was two, Lesley-Anne met Don, and upped it again. Lesley-Anne and Friedkin then fought a custody battle for Jack in a case which even her own lawyer,

Continued on page 9

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Pull back on Lords, peer tells Hague

BY ANDREW GRICE

Political Editor

A SENIOR Tory peer warned the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, yesterday to pull back from his "gladiatorial battle" with the Government over reform of the House of Lords.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, a constitutional expert and the chairman of NatWest bank, criticised Tory plans to use the party's big majority in the Lords to disrupt government Bills, including plans to strip the 750 hereditary peers of their right to sit and vote.

A Conservative Central Office briefing note, leaked to *The Independent* last week, revealed that the Tories were planning a "zero tolerance" policy towards "bad legislation".

But Lord Alexander said: "I thought zero tolerance was a phrase used in dealing with crime. I would very be disappointed if anything like that crept in, in the Lords fulfilling what is a very important role of evaluating where legislation could be improved."

He told GMTV's *Sunday Programme* that Labour's strongest argument for Lords reform was the in-built Tory majority under the present system. "That argument means there must be change," he said.

Lord Alexander warned that the Tories could "play into Labour's hands" if their peers continued to block the Bill to bring in proportional representation for next June's elections to the European Parliament.

Although he would prefer a "big bang" Lords reform which went wider than the hereditaries, he warned Mr Hague: "I think the chances of that will diminish every time that the gladiatorial contest between

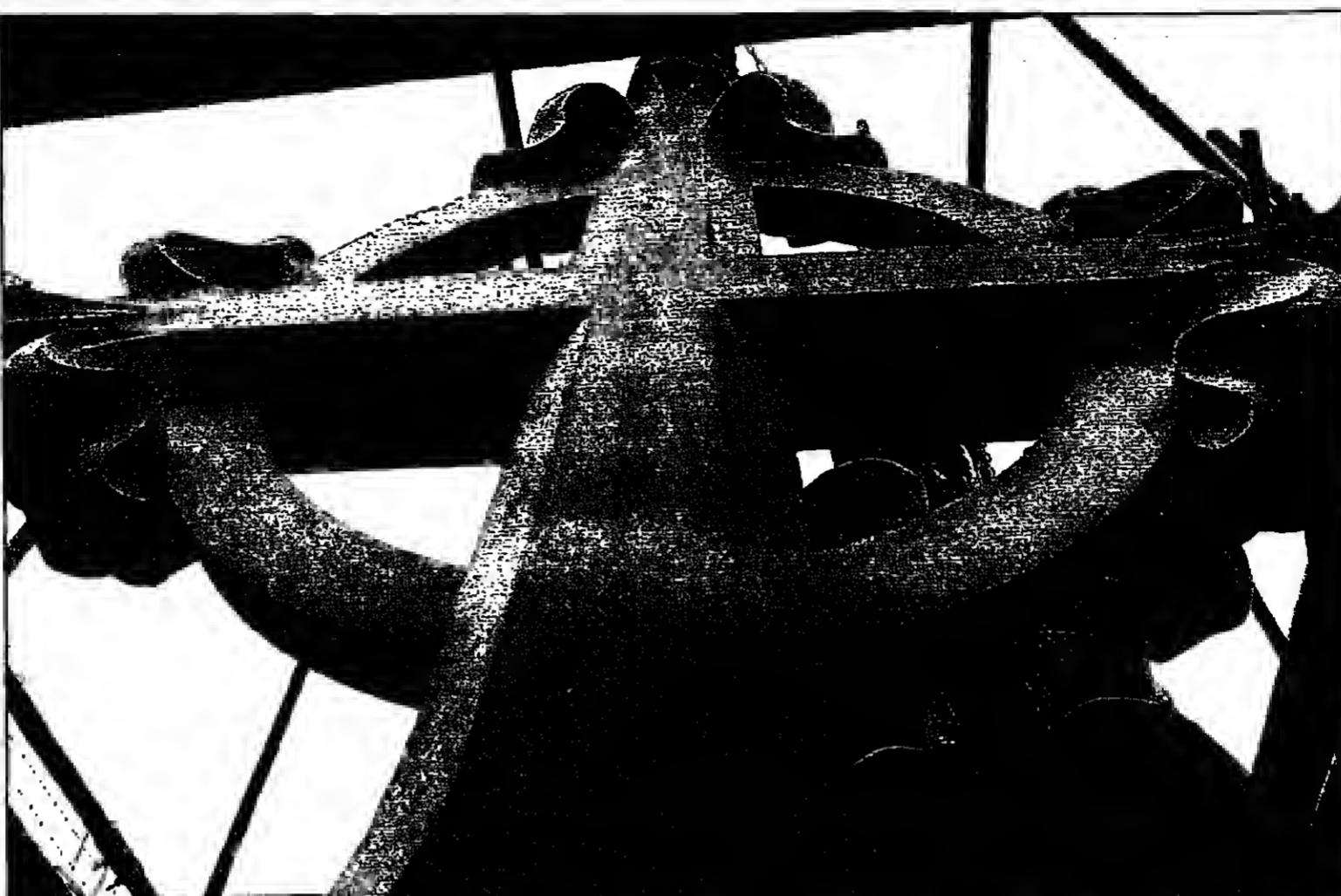
the Government and the House of Lords surfaces."

The European Elections Bill will be rushed through the Commons this week and Lord Alexander said that peers, who voted against it five times during the last parliamentary session, should not spend much more time on what he called "a relatively minor issue".

However, Mr Hague defended his hardline tactics over Lords reform. Interviewed on the same programme, he denied his "zero tolerance" strategy could backfire on the Tories. He insisted that Tony Blair had misjudged the public mood. "I think most people in the country think it's wrong to change the House of Lords without knowing what you're going to change it to," he said. "It fuels the suspicion that what the Prime Minister is really after is to have a House of Cronies... We just won't have an effective second chamber that is able to challenge the government of the day. Sadly, that is probably what he wants."

Buckingham Palace confirmed a report in yesterday's *Independent on Sunday* that the Queen has agreed that members of the Royal Family will lose their historic right to sit and vote in Parliament under the Lords reforms. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York, Gloucester and Kent will all lose their seats.

"Formal advice has been received from the Government on reforms and in line with established constitutional practice, the Queen has accepted that advice," a palace spokesman said.



Stonemason Paul Bloomfield putting finishing touches to the new wheel cross, designed by Jason Battie, which will replace an 18th-century cross on the west front gable of Salisbury cathedral in Wiltshire. There will be a topping-out ceremony for the cross on Wednesday Les Wilson

Polish lawyer faces extradition

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE OXFORD university professor whose wife may face extradition to Poland for alleged crimes during the Stalinist era has been released on bail. Mrs Wolinska, a lawyer in Poland during the Stalinist 1950s. If the court issues the arrest warrant, that will be followed by an extradition request to the UK.

Mrs Wolinska has described the charges against her as "a shameful pack of absurd lies". She is accused of fabricating evidence against Enn Fielder, a former leader of Poland's non-Communist resistance to the Nazi occupation. Poland's "Armia Krajowa", or national resistance army, was

loathed by the Communist regime because it had kept Moscow at arm's length throughout the Second World War. Fielder was hanged in 1953, after a brief show trial.

Mrs Wolinska has said: "It wasn't my case - I was in the army part of the jurisdiction and Fielder was tried in the civil court." She is accused of signing Fielder's arrest warrant, though she herself says: "I was not there. I did not see the papers." Her husband said yesterday: "Her only involvement in this case was consent. She never had anything to do with the trial."

If the extradition request does go ahead, it could lead to

many similar requests. Whatever the rights or wrongs of Mrs Wolinska's particular case, the question of General Pinochet's extradition seems almost simple, by comparison. The potential extradition of the Chilean dictator could be followed by a long list of other alleged wrongdoers from different countries.

Every town and city in Communist eastern Europe was littered with people who played an active part in executing the sometimes lethal policies of the repressive regime. Many of those people with dubious CVs now live in Britain and other Western countries.

A Home Office spokesman

emphasised yesterday that approval of the extradition request would not be automatic. "A purely political act wouldn't necessarily qualify."

In Poland, many of the regime's worst crimes have been allowed to rest. Police who murdered a pro-Solidarity priest, Jerzy Popieluszko, were prosecuted. But the bloodshed in 1956 and in 1970 has never been legally pursued. In 1981, pro-Solidarity strikers in a Silesian mine were killed; an inquiry is theoretically under way though little has emerged. General Jaruzelski, who ordered the tanks on to the streets in 1981, now lives in almost dignified retirement.

Police fear for missing baby

BY CARAL MILMO

POLICE SEARCH teams were last night scouring south London as fears grew for the safety of a five-month-old baby girl missing for more than 30 hours.

Scotland Yard said it was "very concerned" about the child, who was reported missing at 11am on Saturday after her distraught mother turned up at Guy's Hospital in London Bridge. A helicopter and sniffer dog search on Saturday failed to find the baby, who was last seen by staff at the hospital on Friday morning after receiving treatment for a skin complaint.

It is understood the mother went shopping with the baby and her six-year-old son in nearby Tower Bridge Road some time on Friday. The baby has not been seen since.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We are very, very concerned for the safety of this child, whose last confirmed sighting was very early on Friday when her mother was seen leaving the hospital.

"A call was received from the hospital reporting the baby missing on Saturday morning and a full air and land search was carried out. That search continues. Obviously as time goes on we become increasingly concerned and we would appeal to anyone who might have seen the baby and her mother on Tower Bridge Road to contact us urgently."

The mother left Guy's wearing a long blue raincoat at around 8am on Friday and is believed by officers to have been seen on nearby Tower Bridge Road later that day.

A 35-year-old woman was last night being held in custody at a south London police station after being arrested in connection with the disappearance.

Anyone with information about the baby, who was last seen wearing a pink hooded jacket and blue romper suit, should contact Detective Inspector Graham Worthington at Depford CID on 0181-853 1212.

Oxfam Hurricane Appeal

"Imagine your worst nightmare. Imagine waking up to something a hundred times worse."

Daniel Alegria, Oxfam, Nicaragua, November 1998

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Over 18,000 people are dead or missing.

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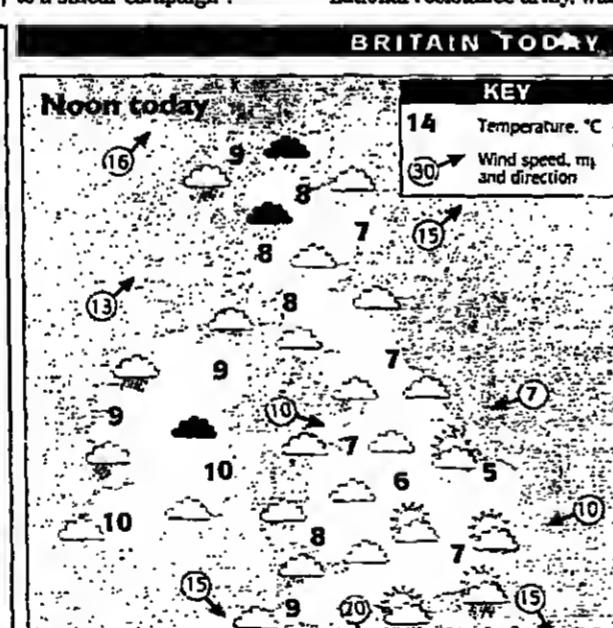
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SE & NE Scotland: Min 7°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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Wales: Min 7°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 8°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 9°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 8°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 9°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SE & NE Scotland: Min 12°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 11°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SE & NE Scotland: Min 13°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SW & NW Scotland: Min 13°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SW & NW Scotland: Min 14°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SW & NW Scotland: Min 15°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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Wales: Min 15°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SE & NE Scotland: Min 17°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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SW & NW Scotland: Min 17°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

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Wales: Min 17°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 18°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 19°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 18°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 19°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 20°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 19°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 20°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 21°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 20°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 21°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 22°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 21°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 22°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SE & NE Scotland: Min 23°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

Wales: Min 22°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

SW & NW Scotland: Min 23°C, max 10°C (45-50°F)

PANDORA

REPORTS FROM America have come up with the intriguing suggestion that actress Judi Dench (pictured) and MI6 Chief Sir David Speeding will hold secret talks next month. Dench, who now plays intelligence boss "M" in the James Bond movies, meets Speeding (known as "C") on 15 December, according to sources. Apparently Speeding asked for the meeting to be held to discuss security issues with her before the next Bond movie, *Pressure Point*, is released at the end of next year. "Judi didn't know what to make of the meeting, but she is going," a source has told the *New York Daily News*. Let's just hope it is happening she didn't want to keep it a secret.

RUPERT MURDOCH'S soon-to-be-ex Anna, is starting to date. Life without the media tycoon has not held her back according to *New York Magazine's* *Intelligencer*. She has been spotted a few times with Marshall Rose, a widower and head of the board of the New York Public Library. Rose and Anna Murdoch have been described as having "mutual friends", a circle that includes David Niven Jr, with whom Anna has also been seen. With rumours of Rupert Murdoch's desire to marry his current companion Wendy Deng, it may he now a question of which of these two Catholics gets to the Vatican first to seek papal permission to marry again.

SPEAKING OF activities of famous exes, Bianca Jagger, married for six years to disgraced Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, has written an open letter to President Clinton warning him of the effects of global warming. "Mr President, I implore you to secure the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on global emissions. After all, Hurricane Mitch is not just a natural disaster, but very likely a symptom of global warming and unstable weather, and it would have taken only a small change of course for it to have hit Florida and Texas," writes the Nicaraguan celebrity in the December issue of *Nation*.

Pandora salutes Bianca's concern, and thanks her for putting the activities of that other natural disaster, Hurricane Mick, in perspective.



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IND 938

Stand up to these egotistical donors

HARD WORKING Labour Party staff at Millbank will be enjoying something of a naughty treat this year. The annual Christmas staff outing on 7 December takes place at London's Planet Hollywood, where there is a reception laid on before a screening of *Primary Colors*, the John Travolta film based around the woes of President Clinton. Pandora wonders what would Bill make of Tony Blair's troopers revelling in his misery? But more to the point what would Democrats watch if they wanted to see Blair squirm? *The Hammer House of Lords*, perhaps?

DANDY AUTHOR Tom Wolfe, whose trademark is a vanilla-coloured Southern plantation owner's suit, has been decrying the way his fellow American men dress these days. "They look like they're fleeing before an invading army," he told US gossip maven Liz Smith. "Casual Fridays! It's crazy. Any man over 35 should wear a jacket and tie. It just makes you look better. To see old men in October wearing shorts, it's gaudy."

"WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?" Frank Sinatra once sang. Well, certainly his family are finding no end of ways to capitalise on his popularity. Shoppers in the States will now be able to purchase their goods with a credit card with a picture of their idol on it. Some friends of Sinatra have poured scorn on the card. "There's something a little cheap about it. This is not the same thing as putting your face on a stamp. This is a commercial thing," said one Sinatra buddy to the *New York Daily News*. "Frank would never have gone for that; he didn't believe in credit."

ELIZABETH HURLEY is just one of the celebrities who, for charity, have listed 10 items that they would most like to receive in their Christmas stocking. The exercise is part of Macmillan Cancer Relief's Celebrity Stocking Auction taking place on 9 December. Other stars involved include Sir

Anthony Hopkins, Joan Collins and Joanna Lumley. Hurley lists Agent Provocateur underwear, a Versace vase and a Tiffany paperweight amongst her luxury choices. Pandora wonders what Liz's partner Hugh Grant wants for Christmas - something divine no doubt.

FOR SOME while I have thought that the greatest threat to economic well-being is falling consumer prices. If deflation happened, it would be accompanied by a severe recession as consumers postponed purchases in the expectation that goods and services would become cheaper as they waited. At the same time, anybody with high borrowing, whether Government, company or private individual, would find that debt repayments were more onerous. Of course, one doesn't find the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, or the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, mentioning the danger. It is not yet part of conventional economic discussion; after all, the industrialised economies haven't experienced deflation since the decade before the Second World War. Today's policymakers have no first-hand knowledge of the phenomenon, nor did the generation before them. In the textbooks, the subject is studied as part of economic history.

I train my binoculars first on Japan and China, where what I call statistical deflation has arrived. Japanese consumer prices are now 0.2 per cent down on a year ago. This is a tiny fall, and has meaning only if consumers begin to hold back from buying. What we know is that the government has found it impossible to revive the economy. In Hong Kong inflation is down to 0.1 per cent annually. When this was announced, a senior economist at one of the former colony's leading banks said: "Finally we've got bingo here. Deflation is going to be much worse than the government predicted. It's going to be severe. We've just seen the beginning of this." Hong Kong, anyway, is in recession.

Now look across the Channel. In Germany, wholesale prices fell by 4.7 per cent in the year to October. The



DAVID
LISTER

*The Central School of
Ballet now tours as
British Gas Ballet
Central. What a name!*

Establishment in the guise of the creator of Rumpole himself.

There is even a *deus ex machina* in the unlikely shape of the Queen. It emerges that the theatre cannot be called The Jerwood Royal Court - the favoured compromise - as no corporate or foundation name can be inserted before the word Royal. So it's Jerwood Theatre or no money.

It is good that The Royal Court's dilemma has come to light. For it throws into relief other pressing problems in the arts. The first is the curse of the national lottery, which for no good reason demanded that arts venues find private funds to supplement their lottery handouts.

It is this "matching funding" that the Court is still seeking. This lottery catch has inevitably led to dozens of arts organisations chasing the same few philanthropists.

It has also exposed the euphoric optimism around when the handouts were given, which is proving a little embarrassing as recession threatens.

Did the Royal Court, for example, absolutely have to have a £26m scheme involving a restaurant underneath Sloane Square - an area not exactly devoid of restaurants?

Daldry is keeping his own council about how the Jerwood problem should be resolved now; but there are those around him who certainly believe that it doesn't matter whose name is on the outside of the theatre provided no one interferes with what goes on the stage.

That seems a rational view. But

I am convinced it is wrong, and for four reasons.

The first and perhaps least powerful argument is sentiment. The Royal Court is a name resonant in Britain's theatrical history and tradition. It conjures up a tradition of challenging society, whatever the decade. We are strangely attached to the names we grew up with.

But eschewing sentiment, there is a case that if you lose the name you risk losing the ethos of the theatre with it. New writers want their work to be put on at The Royal Court because that name inspires writers and directors to stretch the boundaries of theatre.

Thirdly, there are sound business reasons for a theatre not taking on a corporate or foundation name. The theatre's original name is itself a brand which can attract sponsors.

The Royal Court may get its £26m from the Jerwood, but next time it wants to raise money it may have even more difficulty if it is called The Jerwood Theatre.

Other sponsors will simply say: "Go to the people whose name is on the building."

And lastly, it is simply inaccurate and arrogant for the giver of £3m of a £26m scheme to have its name in lights. We the public have given £15m through the National Lottery. So if the name is to change, let's at least call it The National Lottery Jerwood Theatre.

Donors to the arts have become absurdly egotistical. The Central School of Ballet now tours as British Gas Ballet Central. Could there be an uglier name?

It is an added anomaly of the Royal Court affair that the Jerwood is not a private business but a charitable foundation.

One would have expected less self-regard. The Jerwood Foundation should have some public acknowledgement for its £3m.

What is wrong with calling the small studio theatre inside, the second auditorium, The Jerwood Studio?

To demand that a theatre loses a century of tradition and puts your name on the front of the building does not prove the benefactor to be a patron of the arts: more an example of posturing straight out of Gilbert and Sullivan.

Go out and spend. You won't pay more for Xmas presents



ANDREAS
WHITTEAM
SMITH

To date, the reduction in British electricity bills is working out at between 12 to 14 per cent

wholesale price index has shown year-on-year drops in every month since April, and the rate of fall has accelerated. German retail prices dropped on average by 0.2 per cent in October compared with September. France's were also lower. The

annual inflation rate in Germany has fallen to 0.7 per cent and in France to 0.5 per cent. Moreover a recent Bundesbank study has found that German inflation may be overstated by as much as 0.75 per cent; if this is so, German prices may already be falling on an annual basis. No wonder the *Bild* newspaper recently advised its readers to hold off spending on textiles as prices are expected to fall further. All this moved the sober *Financial Times* to comment:

"With inflation in France also at an exceptionally low level, recent trends in German prices have triggered fears that the core of the European economy might be on the verge of deflation." Quite so.

Before focusing on the United Kingdom, let us examine the price

of oil. At the end of last week, crude oil had fallen to a 12-year low of \$10.65 a barrel; it has declined by 30 per cent since January. This is causing the unthinkable to happen. The proud seven sisters, the enormous groups that dominate the industry, are having to merge. First British Petroleum and Amoco announced that they were combining. Now Exxon and Mobil have said they will pool their businesses. Exxon and Mobil were originally part of John D Rockefeller's Standard Oil, found guilty of restraining trade as long ago as 1911 and broken up into 33 separate companies. Nearly 90 years later, the pieces are being put together again. As one oilman said:

"There is no need to lose your independence at \$15 a barrel, but at \$10 there is." There is a sort of symmetry here. As globalisation - the restless bunting for cheap supplies from all over the world, whether of manufactured goods or of commodities - is one of the causes of deflation, so the biggest international businesses, the oil companies, combine to resist its effects.

However in Britain there is, on the face of it, absolutely no sign of deflation. The Chancellor's forecast is that underlying price rises will dip below the Government's target of 2.5 per cent in the first half of next year before coming back into line. The Governor, too, is still fighting the old battle: he said the other day that the Bank of England would be quick to tighten monetary policy if inflation looked to be persistently overshooting the official target.

But out there, so to speak, in the real economy, conditions have more the feel of deflation than inflation. Heavy discounting of high-street prices, especially on household goods and clothing, has been taking place all autumn. Retailers naturally pass this squeeze back to manufac-

turers. As a result the Office for National Statistics reported that the price of goods leaving the factory gate rose at an annual pace of just 0.1 per cent in October - the slowest since 1960. The rise in house prices, too, seems over. The first significant falls for nearly three years have been reported by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

I notice, too, that Britain's largest coal producer, RJB, has proposed that miners' wages should rise annually by one percentage point less than inflation until 2003. The coal miners' This would have the effect of cutting their standard of living year by year. The difference, as compared with the Thirties, is that, in those days, the coal owners tried to reduce actual wages. Here is another example of a profound change in the economic climate prevalent since 1945, the dismantling of trade union power.

But out there, so to speak, in the real economy, conditions have more the feel of deflation than inflation. Heavy discounting of high-street prices, especially on household goods and clothing, has been taking place all autumn. Retailers naturally pass this squeeze back to manufacturers.

Finally, the weakening of the monopolies, formerly the nationalised industries, goes on apace. For example, a further 5.5 million domestic electricity customers will

be able to move from their existing regional monopoly to other suppliers by mid-December. More than 1 million electricity customers have already decided to make such a change in areas where it has been possible. British Gas has made the biggest inroads into the domestic electricity market; it claims to have signed up 500,000 customers already. This freedom of choice is due to be extended to all 24 million households by the end of June 1999.

What is the result of this admirable liberalisation, this shattering of the post-war compact between state industries and state workers, once common throughout the world and one of the engines of inflation? To date, the reduction in British electricity bills is working out at between 12 to 14 per cent.

It is because of developments like this that I believe inflation is a dead duck. Test my assertion this Christmas. There is no need to pay a penny more for presents or good cheer - or holidays - than one did a year ago. It has been 60 years since one has been able to say that.

At a recent meeting organised by HRH Sadrudin Aga Khan to discuss the policing of interfaith, various faiths in unity, but conversions is still the battle cry of most of the religions and most of the branches of those religions.

Their aim, though couched in terms of salvation for the world, is really about more power to the specific beliefs, corporate dogma of that specific branch, eventual world domination, domination bathed in the blood of one crusade after another. Crusades now policed by the so-called United Nations.

Sadly there is no getting away from the fact that religion is causing severe unrest and social dislocation across the world. It appears to have lost its way, or for those of us who believe in one true spiritual being, the devil is making a highly successful take-over bid.

If these words had been spoken by an ageing environmental campaigner, then perhaps they could be forgiven for taking little notice.

They were, however, from the pens of Klaus Schwab and Claude Smadja, representatives of the World Economic Forum. Doyen of the Davos

death, "they do not figure in the so-called global economy for there is no way that the stock exchanges can benefit from their existence."

The same is of course not true of these people's lands, so as an excuse to get them out of the sustainable life cycle and into the unsustainable job cycle they are persuaded to grow so-called cash crops on their land.

Cash for the shareholders of the multinationals, starvation for those who don't get a job as a greasy monkey or part-time worker in the packing factory.

I challenge any member of any faith who has any sense of the abiding spirituality of creation with the arrogance of self-importance - so much so that one in 10 of all the plants and animals which like us are a product of creation and upon which our past, present and future depends are facing extinction.

A world where every day the richest one third of the so-called human population throws away more resources than the poorest two thirds have access to. A world in which every day 100,000 people die prematurely of malnutrition and environmental pollution as a similar number are forced to leave their home lands and

get poorer.

The cross of Soulship, the only way to work God's purpose, and move the living world towards a sustainable future.

JPV is a pseudonym.

Photo: PA Wire/PA Photos

Photo: PA Wire

donors

PC savages and savage TVs

And lastly, it is simply incomprehensible to have its lights. We the public have been through the National Lottery. If the name is to change, let's just call it The National Lottery Fund. The arts have been absolutely catastrophic. The Royal Ballet now tours as though an amateur troupe.

Donors to the arts have been

absolutely catastrophic. The

Royal Ballet Central. Could they

be any worse?

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example of posturing straight

Gilbert and Sullivan.

I won't present



According to the Tate Gallery brochure, "For him the introduction of elephant dung is a means by which to establish a dynamic between the increasingly beautiful paint surfaces of his paintings and the perceived ugliness of dung... his use of the dung is not intended as an assault on painting, rather a friendly challenge and embellishment" - and I think we're all jolly glad to hear it.

But of more immediate concern

is the role dung plays in defining one

of the essences of our human nature.

As I write controversy is rag-

ing in America about the sainted

Hopi Indians and the possibility that

they were cannibals - and whether

by extension, cannibalism was once

a perfectly routine practice in de-

veloped societies, from Spain to

New Guinea.

Next month, Prof Christy Turner will publish *Man Corn*, a book

that suggests American Indians

happily dined on their less fortunate

neighbours in Arizona at the end of

the 16th century, about the time Walter Raleigh was discovering the

potato and the after-dinner fag-

This is a fantastically non-PC chal-

lenge to the received view of the

Noble Indians - all mild, herbivorous, peace-loving proto-hippies

that has been popular since the Six-

ties. But the crucial evidence has

been found in an excavation site

called Cowpox Wash in Western Col-

orado: seven "coprolites" - that's

petrified human dung to you and me

- which contain samples of human

heart muscle.

Dr Richard Marlan, the chap

who discovered this alarming proof

that sophisticated Indian tribes

munched with relish on human



JOHN WALSH
It makes you look with renewed interest on our current bestseller 'How to Cook Delia Smith'.

santa, has been so bothered by accusations of racist colonialism, he has so far refused to publish his findings.

But we know they exist. They're currently being leaked to the American press, 400 years after the last Amerindian gourmet wiped the last traces of sautéed brains and fricassee spleen from his greasy lips. The implications are enormous. Has human society always been secretly keen on eating its fellow men, not from the extremities of starvation but from idle choice? Goodness can *The Human Cookbook* be far away, with its Swiftian recipes for "Roast Leg of Pauper Child" or "Devilled Liver of Former Tory Backbencher"?

It makes you look with renewed interest on the two volumes of gastronomic brilliance that currently head the bestseller lists, with their tantalising front covers *How to Cook Delia Smith* and *How to Eat Nigella Lawson*.

I SPENT far too long on Saturday night carousing with fellow hacks at the Press Ball in the Commonwealth Institute. It was flagged among the inky trade as "the first ever classy journalist banquet", which seems a little hard on all those award ceremonies that have celebrated the Best (Still Living Foreign Correspondent and Best (Not Banging On About Her Divorce) Feature Writer.

A huge throng of tuxedoed despoiled women in spider-slide sign frocks crammed the Institute, munched prawn-and-mango-tout canapés, marvelled at the young lady got up as a Peter Greenaway pineapple, blinking attractively in the middle of the fruit display, and ate the boneless guinea fowl and lime tart pudding while Johnny Vaughan and Denise Van Outen auctioned a lithographed watercolour by the Prince of Wales (for £10,000) and Mystic Meg's Lucky Jacket (for rather less) and Richard Littlejohn, the well-known Irritating Columnist, gave out awards: Tony Blair got a prize for ubiquity, having recently published 40 self-explanatory articles in a record 17 newspapers.

The most abiding memory of the night (which was in aid of the National Press Fund, for journalists down on their luck) was the platoon of enormously tall transvestites from Madam Jo-Jo's in the heart of Soho, who greeted startled guests with a bitchiness that's usually confined to discreet interchanges in the hairdressers.

"Disastrous waistcoat," one pompadoured beauty confided to another as I strode in. The wife of the editor of a Major Broadsheet was greeted with "So - we didn't have time to get to the hairdressers, mmmh".

A friend of the organiser, Leslie Hinton (executive chairman of News International) wore a man's dinner suit. "Ooh, cross-dressing I must try it some time," sneered a saucier in glistening lipgloss.

They got ruder when demanding £10 a time for raffle tickets. "It's for your retirement, you tragic old

thing," said a volatile, Amazonian mix in fishnet tights to anybody slow in pulling out his wallet.

Perhaps this is the future of

charity binges - to be abused by the

waitress staff exorcised by the bar-

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"You mean you have a complaint

about the quality of service in respect to Telephone Book Delivery?" she asked, with a suddenly sharp tone.

"Well, not exactly," I said, "merely a light observation of a domestic humorous kind..."

"Do you wish to register a Formal Complaint?" she grated, with the air of a Bermondsey minder sipping on a pair of knuckle-dusters.

"No no," I laughed, "but if you happen to be speaking to them in the next few days..."

She rang off. Approximately 10 minutes later - like a Rapid Response Unit in fear of losing its Gold Medal - I got a letter from the Customer Services Manager of the phone-book delivery firm. It growled in shame. It snarled at the culprit. It pleaded forgiveness. "This matter will be investigated and severe action taken against the person concerned" it ran.

Maybe this is the way the world is going. Perhaps as we speak, a new generation of window cleaners' assistants is being trained in the finer points of Ladder Steady and being shown the Chamois Leather training video; 1. Ext. Day. Man walks along street, holding bookish impedimenta. 2. Ext. Day. Man enters suburban garden. 3. Ext. Day. Man puts two fat volumes on doorstep beside milk and exits. whisking...

Visions filled my head of tormented postboys, their scrota encircled in piano wire to which

enormous pink E-K volumes are attached, then dropped down a well. "Our contractors are all carefully instructed in the correct methods of delivery, which involve letter-boxing

or handing books to customers where possible," the letter assured me. "Our training video and delivery instruction leaflet clearly set out the high standards that we, as a company, expect from our contractors."

Well, gosh, I had no idea such rigorous arrangements existed in the world of phone-book management. Directory Deliverance is one of the things you take for granted. It wouldn't occur to you that there could be a sort of O-level in it (called what? "Telecommunication Tome Logistics") or a course of instruction or a training video. What would that be like? 1. Exterior Day. Man walks along street, holding bookish impedimenta. 2. Ext. Day. Man enters suburban garden. 3. Ext. Day. Man puts two fat volumes on doorstep beside milk and exits.

Whisking...

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Jérôme Medrano

JEROME MEDRANO inherited the most charming and fascinating circus in Paris. During his 35 years as head of Cirque Medrano - from 1928 to 1963 - he promoted all the great stars of the circus world, and many from the theatre including Josephine Baker, Charles Trenet, Maurice Chevalier, Jean Marais, Mistinguett, and Jonny Hallyday. Prince Rainier was a frequent visitor, and Medrano cultivated friendships with the painter and designer Verets and with Jean Cocteau, who designed a programme cover for one of his seasons.

The greatest of all clowns, the Swiss Adrien Weltach, better known as Grock, entertained in the ring of Cirque Medrano on three occasions, and in 1937 was joined in his act by Medrano himself, the circus administrator's own foray into the spotlight. A charming, distinguished, cultured man, Medrano preferred to remain in the background.

The reputation and fashionability of Cirque Medrano was established by the painters, poets and writers who thronged Montmartre in the second half of the 19th century. Art spawned the style of painting known as "Impressionism" and painters flocked to the intimate little circus building on the Rue des Martyrs/Boulevard Rochechouart in the heart of Pigalle, a stone's throw from the Moulin Rouge.

Under its pink-tinted spotlights, great painters like Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas, Seurat and Renoir created sketches for some of their greatest works. Seurat, whose last studio was close by in the Passage de l'Élysée des Beaux-Arts, was captivated by the equestriennes and the clowns, while Degas painted "Miss La La" hanging from her teeth in the roof of the circus, a picture now in the National Gallery in London.

The story of Cirque Medrano goes back to 1873 when Ferdinand-Constantin Beert pitched his modest tent on wasteland in Pigalle and stayed on to erect the Cirque Fernando wooden building. Among the several stable circuses in Paris at this era, it became a favourite of Parisian audiences because of its warmth and enticing intimacy.

In 1897, the clown known as "Boum Boum", Spanish-born Geronimo Medrano, a former acrobat and trapeze artiste, took over the running of the building, changing its name from Fernando to Medrano. On his death in 1912, he left a widow and a five-year-old son, Jérôme. Management of the building was put into the hands of Rodolphe Bonnet, who became Jérôme's stepfather.



In 1937 Medrano joined Grock, the greatest of all clowns, in his act - his one foray into the spotlight

On attaining his majority, in 1928, Jérôme Medrano - a young man with taste, culture and education and fresh ideas - seized his inheritance, and became the director of the Cirque Medrano. Completely refurbishing the building and restructuring the seating (even though it meant losing several hundred valuable seats), he improved the venerable building which had become known as "Le Cirque de Paris".

It was an era when the greatest clowns of Europe appeared in Paris and Medrano's taste in clown acts brought in as many as three leading groups to each programme in a period when the programme changed every two or three weeks. Thus were established the leading clowns of the French capital, the sensational Fratellini, the brothers Albert, Paul and François, who changed their repertoires with each appearance.

Others like Alex and Porto, Rihm, Iles and Loyal, Little Walter and Charlie Rivel followed, and a young Charlie Caruso, then known as Carletto, made his early débüt in the Medrano ring with his father and Porto, later joined by his brother Philip. Caruso enjoyed tremendous success in Paris prior to his first appearance in Britain at the Blackpool Tower in 1933 where he remained for 39 years, until the end of his career.

Grock appeared at Cirque Medrano twice in the 1930s and once in the early 1950s, just before his retirement. In January 1937, he appeared

without his regular partner Antonet, and only agreed to perform if Jérôme Medrano acted as his "joker volonté". They rehearsed and rehearsed the music, the dialogue, the physical gags, until perfection was achieved, and in his own magical ring Jérôme Medrano became a star alongside the greatest clown of all time.

Among the artistes he presented at Medrano, were the sensational Flying Codonas, the greatest juggler of all time, Enrico Rastelli, Alfred Court's remarkable wild animals, and the tightwire genius Con Colleano. He was not scared to experiment, however, and often introduced unusual attractions, including Elroy the Armless Wonder, Britain's comic talent Lauri Lupino Lane (son of the "Lambeth Walk" creator), the ballet of Georges Reich, the 22 musicians and dancers of the Scottish Royal Kiltie Juniors Band, the American singing stars the Peters Sisters, the harmonica talents of Larry Adler, and even the "Cake Walk". Gala performances included great stage and film stars like Fernandel, Edith Piaf, Josephine Baker, and the French heart-throb singer Charles Trenet.

In 1936, Jérôme Medrano was successfully running three circuses under the Medrano title, one in Paris, one in a semi-permanent construction in leading provincial towns, and one in a vast big top which toured France. Financial problems, however, caused by divorce from his first wife, Rachel Baquet, from a French girl on ice skates.

Probably none of his discoveries was as unusual, however, as the trapeze artiste Barrette, the circus world's first and only transvestite star. Other attractions included Don Saunders, from Britain, hailed as the "new Grock", who appeared there in 1956.

By a cruel stroke of fate, Medra-



Cirque Medrano's programme for Spring 1939

no lost his circus to his arch-rivals, the Bouglione. While demolition proceeded, the clown Achille Zavatta, a former star at Cirque Medrano, visited in full clown make-up and costume, bearing a wreath, his eyes filled with tears at the death of a circus.

For over 30 years, since Medrano's closure, Jérôme and Violette lived in Monaco. Here they attended the International Circus Festivals promoted by Prince Rainier each January. Jérôme Medrano was enshrined into the International Circus

Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana in 1996. His body was interred in the Medrano family vault at the little cemetery in Montmartre, close to the site of his cherished Cirque Medrano.

D. NEIL

Jérôme Medrano, circus owner: born Paris 18 May 1907; married first Rachel Baquet (marriage dissolved, 1937); second Violette Schmidt (one son, one daughter); died Monaco 14 November 1996.



Ray as chairman of *The Movie Quiz*, 1972

PANEL GAMES, once the high spot of channels like BBC2, are today reduced to daytime programme fodder. For reasons, ask not the millions of loyal viewers for whom series like *What's My Line?* were topped only by game shows such as *Call My Bluff*. These series made stars of Barbara Kelly (Mrs Bernard Braden), with her extraordinary earrings, Lady Barnett (isobel to us fans) and her suspiciously frequent "informed guesses", but also of the chairmen such as former sports reporter Eamonn Andrews or former pianist Joseph Cooper.

One of the best, *Call My Bluff*, started on BBC2 (then the channel for the intelligentsia, or at least for those with a shade more taste than your average BBC1 viewer) on 17 October 1963. Described by the *Radio Times* as "a duel of words and wit", it starred as regular team captains Frank Muir, the comedy scriptwriter, and Robert Morley, the humorous actor of stage and screen. Supporting them were the actress Celia

Johnson, usually rather cool of performance, and the *Daily Mirror* agony aunt, Marjorie Proops. In the chair sat a young, slim, handsome fellow with the alliterative name of Robin Ray.

The game itself was American by birth, created by that inseparable twosome of early television, Mark Goodson and Bill Todman. The words, all curiously unfamiliar but extracted from the *Oxford English Dictionary*, were illustrated by the newspaper cartoonist "Emmuno". Each team took it in turns to guess which member of the opposing side was defining the unusual word correctly. Sounds not much fun? Well, you try defining witsiti, potochomia and jarrah. In the event the show ran for 24 years before disappearing, but has recently been revived as a morning programme, which the chairman and personalities involved are regularly undetailed by the currently uninformative *Radio Times*.

Robin Ray became every young lady's ideal chairman. The eldest son of the hugely popular radio comedian

Ted Ray (real name Charles Olden), he was born in London in 1933. His brother is the actor Andrew Ray, and he married the actress and children's television presenter, Susan Stranks.

Educated at Highgate School, Ray showed an early interest in acting and an unexpected taste for classical music, both of which would play major roles in his future career. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and became their chief technical instructor from 1961 to 1965. Meanwhile he had made his London stage debut in the 1960 production of *The Changeling*. He later spent a while in America as an Associate Director for the Meadow Brook Theatre in Detroit.

Face the Music was introduced by BBC2 on 3 August 1972. The chairman, or more precisely piano stool man, was Joseph Cooper: "giving you not too serious opportunity to match your musical wits against the team", to quote *Radio Times* again. Although lacking the conscious clutch of comedians that was a strong

both the BBC and commercial radio, and in 1988 he was appointed musical adviser to Classic FM Radio. For that independent station he compiled a repertoire of 20,000 selected tracks from a library of 50,000 CDs representing 1,750 composers.

Other achievements include several runs as chairman of *The Movie Quiz* for BBC2, in which he exploited his hobby knowledge of cinema to the full, and the show *Let's Do It*, which he co-wrote and narrated at the 1994 Chichester Festival. Asked recently how he described himself on his passport, Robin Ray followed his father: "I call myself an entertainer," he said. By curious coincidence, Ted Ray is currently to be seen, hale, hearty and hilarious on Granada's revival of *Jokers Wild*. Dad and his lad would be proud of each other.

DENIS GIFFORD

Robin Ray, broadcaster and writer: born London 1933; married 1960 Susan Stranks (one son); died Brighton, West Sussex 29 November 1998.

Wendell Chino

WENDELL CHINO was a hero to American Indians and set out a persuasive philosophy of "red capitalism" that gave Indian tribes a model by which they could regain control of their lands and find a way to greater prosperity. As the long-time president of the Mescalero Apache Nation, he helped to lift his tribe out of abject poverty with a series of entrepreneurial schemes that included a ski resort and one of the first gaming casinos on Indian land.

Chino led the Mescaleros for 34 years and gradually won his people a greater degree of self-determination. After years of punishing government policies that ranged from extermination to assimilation, he forced the US authorities to honour the treaties it had made regarding use of land and resources within the Mescalero reservation, which is 200 miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Roy Bernal, Chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council, described Chino as "a Martin Luther King or a Malcolm X of Indian country. He took stances that affected Indians not only on his reservation, but all over the country," he said. "He was truly a modern warrior."

Until the mid-1980s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs oversaw everything from mining to timber to grazing contracts on the Mescalero reservation, home to 4,000 people. As these contracts came up for renewal, Chino allowed them to lapse and instead created timber and cattle companies controlled by the tribe. With his guidance, the Mescalero Apache Nation then built a ski resort, the Inn of the Mountain Gods, a casino, a timber mill and a metal fabrication plant, as well as Indian schools, a hospital and a health centre.

Often described as a "benevolent dictator", Chino dominated Mescalero affairs, while he travelled the

world as a spokesman for Indian issues and served a term as the president of the National Congress of American Indians. During a court battle over the control of Mescalero Apache natural resources in 1977, he described the problem: "The white man has raped this land and now he wastes the six million acres of Indian land in this state."

The solution, which came to be called "red capitalism", was equally blunt: that Indian people should make decisions about Indian land. At the same time, Chino recognised the need to "participate wholly in the American way."

Believing that, as a nation, Indians had no business negotiating at state level, Chino fought his battles at the federal and even presidential level. He lambasted President Jimmy Carter in 1978 for his lack of attention to the plight of the American Indian. "If Carter has time enough to worry about human

rights in Latin America and poverty in Africa, he should find some time to visit American Indians," he said. Wendell Chino was born on the Mescalero reservation in 1923 and was educated in the Santa Fe Indian School System. He attended Central College in Pella, Iowa, and the Cook Christian Training School in Phoenix. He was an ordained minister in the Dutch Reformed Church and a graduate of Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

A little man with stooped shoulders, two hearing aids and a booming voice, Chino appeared gruff in public but had a sly sense of humour. He once described the Mescaleros' strength this way: Navajos, he said, make rugs, and the Pueblos make pottery. "The Mescaleros, make money."

Chino's positions could also be unpopular. He split with New Mexico Indian leaders last year, refusing to honour a gambling-revenue-sharing agreement with



Chino outside the Mescalero Apache Indians' casino, 1998

Giving thanks for delaying the onset of Christmas

IF I am looking a little bloated and sluggish today, it is because it was Thanksgiving here on Thursday, and I haven't quite recovered yet.

I have a special fondness for Thanksgiving because, apart from anything else, when I was growing up it was the one time of year we ate in our house. All the other days of the year we just kind of put food into our mouths. My mother was not a great cook, you see.

Now please don't misunderstand me. My mother is a kindly, cheerful, saintly soul, and when she dies she will go straight to heaven, but believe me, no one is going to say, "Oh, thank goodness you're here, Mrs Bryson, can you fix us something to eat?"

To be perfectly fair to her, my mother had several strikes against her in the kitchen department. To begin with, she couldn't cook – always a hit of a handicap where the culinary arts are concerned. Mind you, she didn't especially want to be able to cook, and anyway she couldn't have even if she had wanted to.

She had a career, you see, which meant that she was always flying in the door two minutes before it was time to put dinner on the table. On top of this, she was a trifle absent-minded. She tended to confuse similarly coloured ingredients like sugar and salt, pepper and cinnamon, vinegar and maple syrup, cornflour and plaster of Paris, which often lent her dishes an unexpected dimension. Her particular speciality was to cook things while they were still in the packaging. It was almost full-grown before I realised that clingfilm wasn't a sort of chewy glaze. A combination of haste, forgetfulness and a charming incompetence where household appliances were concerned meant that most of her cooking experiences were punctuated with billows of smoke and occasional small explosions.

In our house, as a rule of thumb, it was time to eat when the firemen departed.

Strangely, this suited my father. My father had what you might call rudimentary tastes in food. His palate really only

responded to three flavours: salt, ketchup and burnt. His idea of an outstanding meal was a plate that contained something brown and unidentifiable, something green and unidentifiable, and something charred. I am quite sure that if you slow-baked, say, a loaf and covered it sufficiently with ketchup, he would have said, "Hey, this is very tasty."

Good food, in short, was

something that was wasted on him, and my mother worked hard for years to see that he was never disappointed.

But on Thanksgiving, by some kind of miracle, she pulled out all the stops and outdid herself. She would call us to the table and there we would find, awaiting our unaccustomed delectation, a sumptuous spread of food – an enormous and glistening turkey, baskets of cornbread and warm rolls, vegetables that you could actually recognise, a tureen of cranberry sauce, a bowl of exquisitely fluffed mashed potatoes, a salver of plump sausages, and much else. We would eat as if we had not eaten for a year (as, in effect, we had

not) and then she would present the pièce de résistance – a golden, flaky-crusted pumpkin pie surrounded by a Matterhorn of whipped cream. It was perfect. It was heaven.

And it has left me with the profoundest joy and gratitude for this most wonderful of holidays – for Thanksgiving is the most splendid of occasions and make no mistake.

Most Americans, I believe, think that Thanksgiving has always been held on the last Thursday of November and that it has been going on for ever; or

at least as near for ever as

anything gets in America.

In fact, although the Mayflower pilgrims did indeed hold a famous feast in 1621 to thank the local Indians for their help in getting them through their first difficult year and showing them how to make popcorn and so on (for which I am grateful even yet), there is no record of when that feast was held. Given the climate of New England, it was unlikely to have been late November. In any case, for the next 242 years

Thanksgiving as an event was hardly noted. The first official celebration wasn't held until 1863 – and then in August, of all months. The next year President Abraham Lincoln moved it arbitrarily to the last Thursday in November – no one seems to recall now why a Thursday, or why so late in the year and there it has stayed ever since.

Thanksgiving is wonderful, and for all kinds of reasons. To begin with, it has the commendable effect of staving off Christmas. Whereas in Britain the Christmas shopping season seems nowadays to kick off

round about the August bank holiday, Christmas mania doesn't traditionally begin in America until the last weekend in November.

Moreover, Thanksgiving remains a pure holiday, largely unsullied by commercialisation. It involves no greetings cards, no trees to trim, no perplexed bums through drawers and cupboards for decorations. At Thanksgiving all you do is sit at a table and try to get your stomach into the shape of a beach ball, and then go and watch a game of American football on the TV. This is my kind of holiday. But perhaps the nicest, and certainly the noblest, aspect of Thanksgiving is that it gives you a formal, official occasion to give thanks for all those things for which you should be grateful. Speaking personally, I have a great deal to be thankful for: I have a wife and children I am crazy about. I have my health and retain full command of most of my faculties (albeit not always simultaneously). I live in a time of peace and prosperity. Ronald Reagan will never be president

again. These are things for which I am grateful, and I am pleased to let the record show it.

The only downside is that the passage of Thanksgiving marks the inescapable onset of Christmas. Any day now – any moment – my dear wife will appear beside me and announce that the time has come to shift my distended stomach and get out the festive decorations. This is a dread moment for me and with good reason, since it involves physical exertion, wobbly ladders, live electricity, wriggling ascents through a loft hatch, and the collaborative direction of said dear missus – all things with the power to do me a serious and permanent injury. I have a terrible feeling that today may be that day. Still, it hasn't happened yet and for that, of course, I give my sincerest thanks of all.

Extracted from 'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday, price £16.99. Available at all major bookshops or by mail order on 01624 675137



Vanishings that haunt Ireland

The disappearance of six young Irishwomen over recent years has prompted fears that a serial killer is on the loose. Or are the Irish police simply incompetent? By Mary Braid

It was the disappearance in daylight of student teacher Deirdre Jacob, 18, on 28 July this year, that finally forced the beleaguered Irish Gardai's hand. Deirdre, back in free land for the holidays from a west London college, had spent the afternoon in the centre of her home town, Newbridge, in county Kildare, south-west of Dublin.

At lunchtime she visited her grandmother's shop. The attractive dark-haired teenager was then captured on a security video at the Allied Irish Bank at around 1.20pm sending a £180 bank draft for a flat share for the new academic year.

Ten minutes later she visited the post office and then chatted to a friend on the street before making her way down a narrow, tree-lined country road, past the local evangelical church. The last sighting of her was about 3pm just 300 yards from her parents' front door. Then, the teenager with everything to live for vanished.

Irish police announced two months ago that Deirdre's disappearance was to be investigated alongside the cases of at least five other young women who had gone missing over the past five years. Officers appeared to be finally taking seriously what locals had believed for years: that a serial killer is on the loose in Ireland.

The attempt to link the cases has caused endless media excitement and mollified a public which believed the Gardai had been blind to the obvious for too long. However the establishment of a new Tracing, Reviewing and Collating Evidence unit (Trace), led by John Hickey, an FBI-trained Assistant Commissioner, is not without its critics, not least among the families of the missing.

The new Trace unit has been set up at Naas, south-west of Dublin, at the centre of a 30-mile circle within which four of the six women went missing. The disappearances are recorded on maps and charts lining the walls.

The first woman to go missing was Annie McCarrick, 26, an Irish American

who was studying in Dublin. She disappeared during a trip to the mountains, south of the capital, on 26 March 1993, sparking one of the largest missing persons investigations in Irish history.

US ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and vice-president Al Gore lobbied the Irish government on behalf of Annie's family. Ms McCarrick's father, John, a former New York cop, was scathing about the investigation by Irish police and offered a \$150,000 reward for information. Mr McCarrick also hired a private detective to search for his daughter. But five years on no positive leads have emerged and the disappearance of Annie, his only child, has broken his marriage, his health, and the bank.

After Ms McCarrick came beautician Jojo Dillard, 21, who disappeared on the evening of November 9 1995, outside a phone box at Moone, Co Kildare, while hitching home from Dublin after missing the last bus. Jojo was talking to her best friend when she hurriedly hung up saying a lift had arrived. She was never seen again.

Ms Jacob, Ms Dillard and Ms McCarrick went missing in roughly the same area as part-time model Fiona Pender, 25, who disappeared from Tullamore, County Offaly, on August 23 1996 when was she was seven and a half months pregnant.

But also included in the core police investigation are Clara Breen, 17, who disappeared from Dundalk on Eire's northern border on 17 February 1997 and Fiona Sinnott, 19, a single mother who went missing in February this year from County Wexford in the south.

In line with FBI theory that hard-to-solve cases need a fresh eye, six detectives unassociated with the previous investigations, have been drafted in to Naas to work full-time on the six core cases, and at least six other murders and disappearances of women stretching back as far as 1979. As well as reviewing the records of known sex offenders, the detectives are reviewing each disappearance in chronological order, seeking "common threads".

Assistant Commissioner Hickey, much admired for his successful recent hunt for the killers of Irish journalist Veronica Guerin, admits that the only link between the women at the moment is that all six were attractive and young and disappeared inexplicably and without trace.

But that does not stop him giving serious consideration to the theory that was ignored for years: that a serial killer is responsible. "The Gardai doesn't want to scare the public," he says. "But it would be foolish to ignore the possibility."

It is early days – and no breaks have yet been announced – but the unit clearly has its work cut out. While the police, and most of the relatives, accept that the missing women are dead, and almost certainly murdered, there are no bodies or crime scenes to examine. The serial killer, if he exists, has left no signature that would offer clues, only empty phone boxes and deserted country roads.

The relatives of the missing, meanwhile, have been divided over their views of Trace. Those who bought into the serial killer theory are pleased the police are taking it seriously. But other relatives say the unit is a smoke screen for weaknesses in the way missing cases are investigated. It is those weaknesses they insist have prevented breaks in any of the original separate investigations. They feel the unit is a sop to families demands for a permanent national system for the cross-filing of information on missing women.

On a cattle farm, at the end of a muddy track in County Kilkenny, Jojo Dillard's sister, Mary Phelan, 46, is among the most dismayed. In the past three years, Mrs Phelan, a sit 10th farmer's wife with no previous campaigning experience, has become the bane of her local police force with her unrelenting determination to find Jojo's body and her killer.

Once the police scaled down their searches, her personal battle became a national crusade. She has co-founded a national organisation for the relatives of



Clockwise from top left: Annie McCarrick, Clara Breen, Deirdre Jacob, Fiona Pender, Fiona Sinnott and Jojo Dillard

people who have gone missing in Ireland since 1990 and is now its spokesperson.

Mary Phelan helped raise her little sister after their parents died. For her and her husband Martin, normal life ceased the night Jojo rushed from the phone box in Moone for a lift. The Phelans still work their little farm hut. Jojo occupies their every spare moment. In the corner of the kitchen, oddly out of place below a portrait of Jesus lit by a single orange bulb, sits a fax and copier. Among the coffee cups, the kitchen table is strewn with documents and newspaper cuttings. The couple are working on the latest in a string of publicity campaigns to keep Jojo's case alive.

"I knew in my heart the moment Jo went missing that that was it. It was totally out of character for her to disappear." But she says the police refused to listen and vital investigating time was lost. When the case was opened, the Phelans complain the police were less than thorough.

Relations between the Phelans and the police have hit rock bottom. In the early days of the investigation, a local officer gave them the name of the main police suspect

who had allegedly given officers conflicting statements. The Phelans now believe that a complex conspiracy has been hatched to protect him.

Two hours drive north, Josephine Pender, 49, sits in the dying light of a winter's afternoon, looking at old pictures of her daughter, Fiona, modelling in a brides magazine. She is kinder to the police, sympathising that when her daughter disappeared "where to start an investigation was a problem". Fiona's boyfriend was arrested but never charged. Mrs Pender says she knew quite quickly that Fiona was dead. Excited about her coming baby, she had no reason to disappear.

While she has no complaints about the police, she also believes the answer to her daughter's disappearance lies locally, not with some ritualistic, roving killer. She sees an irony in the possibility that setting up Trace might allow real killers to go free. But she welcomes any fresh police interest. Along the path, however wayward, she hopes some new clue may yet emerge.

"Remember Fiona and I watching the appeal for information about Jojo Dillard

on television when she went missing," she says. "Now I am in the same position. You cannot imagine the pain."

Mrs Pender suffered four miscarriages before she had Fiona and her two brothers. She has only one child left. Her eldest son Martin died in a motorcycle accident just over a year before Fiona's disappearance. "When Fiona went missing we went to all the places that meant something to her. To the spot where Martin died, to his grave in Tullow and to the hill where all that was left of his bike was buried. Now all I want is to put Fiona down beside her brother."

In the face of such suffering the Gardai have delivered few answers. According to the cynics, Trace has been set up to get the police off the hook. "Nothing really links these cases except that the police failed to solve them," says one Dublin journalist.

The Trace detectives, meanwhile, press on, backed by many ordinary, anxious Irish people. A string of attempted abductions this week of young women on the outskirts of Dublin only reinforced their view that a serial killer at large for as long as two decades, is still out there.

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

NO.16 GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

The facts

■ At least 60 per cent of processed foods may contain soya.

■ 15 per cent of soya is genetically modified.

■ MP's in the House of Commons have banned the use of GM food in their restaurants.

■ A Mori survey revealed that 61 per cent of Britons regard GM food as unacceptable and 77 per cent support a ban on the commercial growing of GM crops until more is known about health risks and environmental impact.

■ All new Iceland and Asda own-label products do not contain GM ingredients.

■ The Vegetarian Society has banned the use of GM ingredients from products bearing the society's V approved "by the Vegetarian Society" symbol.

■ Tesco is the first British retailer to label all GM ingredients in its own-brand products, including soya oil

and lecithin, which do not need labelling under European Union rules.

The good news

Genetic engineering alters the DNA of crops by transferring genes from one organism to another. By genetic engineering food, scientists have extended the shelf life of foods and created crops that are resistant to pesticides and herbicides. For example, fish have a genetic characteristic that helps them survive in very cold water. That gene can now be inserted into a tomato to make it frost-resistant, meaning bigger and better tomato harvests... supposedly.

The bad news

No one is sure about the health effects of eating GM food but there are fears about its safety and its effect on the environment. Though genetically modifying food can eliminate weaknesses in a crop, sometimes it can introduce weaknesses into the food chain too. Seeds genetically engineered to kill bad pests may kill the good pests too. e.g. potatoes which were engineered to kill aphids also killed beneficial ladybirds. If GM crops fail, then they fall in a spectacular way and they could threaten the entire food chain.

In the US, thousands of hectares of Monsanto's cotton seeds failed in 1997 and 1 million acres of GM cotton which was supposed to be resistant to bollworm was destroyed – by bollworm in 1996.

In Nebraska, cattle farmers faced a crisis when their cows stopped grazing because their corn fields had been growing GM corn and they didn't like the taste. Non GM crops cannot be prevented from cross-pollinating with GM crops, meaning that farmers who don't agree with GM have no way of preventing their crops being contaminated.

Last year Guy Watson, an organic farmer from Devon, took the Government to court to stop trials of genetically-engineered maize which contains an antibiotic resistance gene. Both countries fear that eating the maize will lead to more resistance to antibiotics in humans and animals. In the US a disease called EMS was eventually linked to a food supplement derived from genetically-modified bacteria. But, 36 people had dead and 1,500 were disabled.

Health risks

Because GM food has only been around for three years it is difficult to predict its impact, but the recent experience of BSE shows how a relatively small change in food production can have a devastating impact on safety which may take years to show up. Austria and Luxembourg are trying to stop imports of genetically-engineered maize which are found in sausages, gravy powder, soups, coffee creamers, frozen desserts, stock cubes, bacon and ham brine.

Lecithin, an emulsifying agent used to make chocolate, margarine, bread, cakes and biscuits.

Vegetable oil, vegetable fat, hydrogenated vegetable oils are found in many foods including cakes, biscuits, crisps, fast food.

Soya flour, soya flakes, soya milk, soy hairy milk and tofu should be properly labelled as should textured vegetable protein which is found in meat products, meat substitutes and vegetarian dishes.

■ Ring the Monsanto Soya Information Centre 0345-022328 to ask them why they refuse to segregate their soya beans meaning potential contamination of 60 per cent of the foods we buy.

■ Write to the manager of your local supermarket and ask them what they intend to do about labelling all genetically engineered foods and ingredients.

■ Study food labels carefully and buy organic if you can afford it.

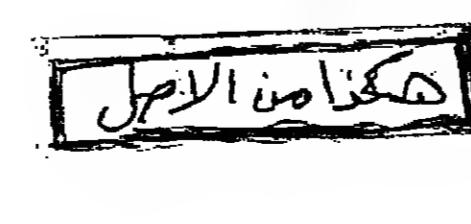
■ Avoid soya-based foods especially soya baby milk.

Useful numbers

Genetics Forum - 0171-638 0606

The Food Commission - 0171-837 2250. The Soil Association - 0171-914 2449. The Consumers Association - 0171-830 6000

Recommended reading: 'Women Unlimited: The Directory for Life', published by Penguin at £9.99



THIS WAS THE
WEEK THAT WAS

Today In 1844 the first detective story hit Britain, in a magazine that included "The Purloined Letter". It was by Edgar Allan Poe but his stories were later killed off as a classy genre by lesser breeds like Agatha Christie who dunnit.

Tomorrow In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* was premiered in New York. Although lasting nearly four hours, it is like a trailer compared with the longest movie, *The Cure for Insomnia*, which clocked up a massive 85 hours - only 80 in the shortened version.

Wednesday Edmond Rostand died in 1918, having written the play *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which spawned a film with Gerard Depardieu and his nasal extension. The real Cyrano de B. was himself a playwright with a nose which launched a 1,000 fights.

Thursday The good news for literature in 1926 was that Agatha Christie mysteriously disappeared from her Surrey home; the bad news was that she turned up 10 days later under an assumed name in a Yorkshire hotel.

Friday In 1988 Beethoven's nine symphonies were played at the Royal Festival Hall, with three orchestras - and one conductor.

Saturday Walt Disney was born in 1901. Laugh-O-Gram, his first company, went bankrupt but he soon conquered the Disneyworld when he started again with brother Roy and an animator with a name like something out of *The Jungle Book*. Unbeknownst, in 1971, Mozart died from typhus and was buried in an unmarked grave - but he was spared the humiliation of seeing himself portrayed in the play and film, *Anadeus*.

Sunday First recording of the human voice made by Thomas Edison in 1877, when he recited "Mary had a Little Lamb" into his phonograph. The jazz pianist, Dave Brubeck, who single-handedly - well, double-handedly - justifies the invention of the gramophone, was born in 1920.

JONATHAN SALE

The RSC will need all its finest technical magic to bring 'Narnia' to life on stage. By Sarah Hemming

Lions, witches and hitches

In a corner of the RSC props workshop, the designer Anthony Ward and his colleagues on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* are talking magic. Today's problem: how to transform a witch into a boulder.

In the book, it's easy. A flick of the witch's wand, and bingo - flesh becomes stone.

On stage, such magic needs a little more technical back-up. They've already dealt with the moment when the witch conjures a goblet of cordial and a box of Turkish Delight out of nowhere, using special trap doors and tiny gizmos that will release the goodies on cue. But turning an actress into a rock is more demanding.

It is not just the magic moments that make staging C.S. Lewis's children's classic a challenge, however. Far more daunting is the creation of the book's peculiar enchanted atmosphere - coupled with the fact that you are entering the perilous territory at the reader's imagination. Lewis's story of the four evacuated children who stumble on Narnia at the back of a wardrobe is a memorable read. Anyone who encountered it as a child will remember that scalp-pricking moment when Lucy first pushes through the coats in the wardrobe and feels for give way to fir.

Most will have a picture in their mind's eye of the bewitched forest where it is always winter. Ward's Narnia has to live up to that mental landscape.

"I tried to tune into how I felt about it as a child, rather than as a grown-up," he says. "I loved that almost eerie atmosphere that unsettles you and enchains you."

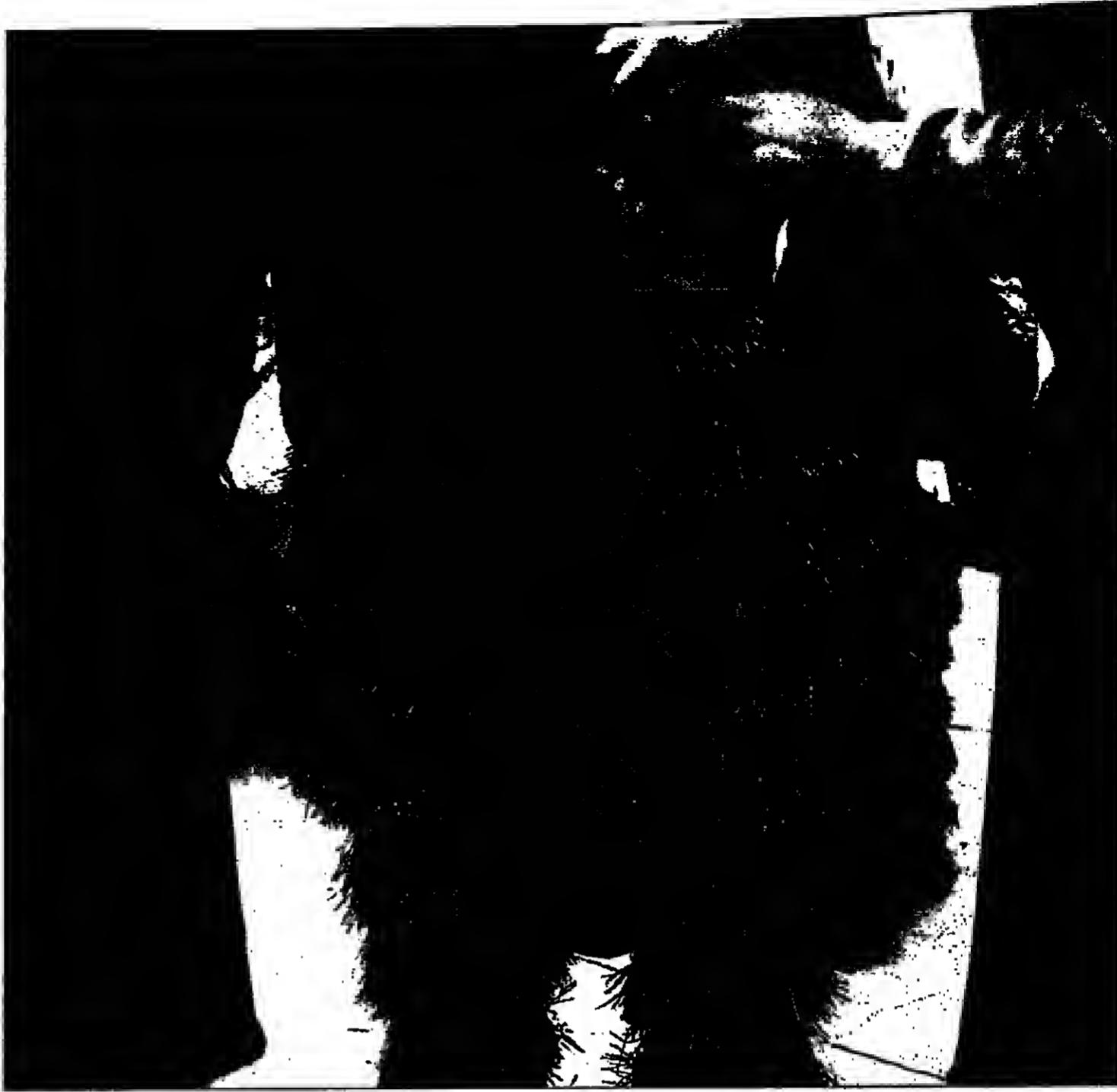
In a sense, Ward is accustomed to dealing with transformed worlds, having provided inspired sets for some of Shakespeare's most magical plays - the most recent being Adrian Noble's production of *The Tempest*. Noble and Ward have developed a distinct style: Ward designing a beautiful but very succinct set that supports Noble's uncluttered staging. Ward sees *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, again directed by Noble, as fitting into the pattern, and again, his first instinct was that less would be more. But this time he had to suggest a surreal atmosphere, while also handling the fact that Lewis is very fulsome in his concrete descriptions at the Narnian forest. Too abstract a design could confuse the audience. To begin with, Ward was flummoxed.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, how can I get all this world on stage?'" he admits. "I started off creating cone shapes made out of silk that would look like trees covered in snow. They were able to move, because you have a lot of journeys in the show. But the story moves so quickly

that they became incredibly cumbersome. I started having to choreograph the set, which was really, really unhelpful."

"At the end of the day, the simpler you are, the more the characters and the story fill the space."

In the end, a chance discovery



In an example of the designers' non-literal interpretation, the beavers have fringed trousers instead of fury ones John Lawrence

The mane is not just a mane, but an aura - a halo even.

"We started off with lots of quills and feathers mixed with twine to get a light bulky appearance," says Moore. "But the yarns and twines made it too earthy and heavy. Now we're trying a mixture of feathers and fur."

Asian has been a headache for Ward. He wanted to avoid the cutesy, fancy dress effect yet to produce a recognisable lion. "One help was discovering that Patrice Naiambana was going to play that part," he says.

He's got a very powerful presence, which made me realise that the costume doesn't have to be a powerful thing - you've got somebody strong playing the lion, now

dress them as simply as you can.

No hairy breeches, then, but gold velvet trousers, and Naiambana won't have to mumble through a fury face. Solving Asian determined Ward's approach to all the animals. The story calls for beavers, fauns, squirrels and wolves, not to mention centaurs, dryads and a unicorn. Again, with the set, Ward realised that suggestion was the key: finding a way of giving the actor the same quality as the animal, without replicating it literally.

"We've hardly used any fur at all," he points out. "For the beavers, for example, we've used fringed trousers instead of fury ones."

One advantage of this non-literal representation is that it allows for

the interpretation that Narnia arises from the children's imaginations - a possibility that comes into its own with the witch's army of baddies. Here the Efrets, Sprites, Orkynes, Wooses, Ettins and their pals become sinister looking bogies in black gas masks, reminding us that the children have been evacuated from horrors more real than those in Narnia.

"Adrian was very keen that the war is ever present as a frightening thing going on in the real world," Ward explains. "so Maugram, the witch's chief of police, has a Gestapo house is destroyed it looks like an air raid. We came across a picture of a group of people all wearing gas

masks and thought what a brilliant idea for the badies."

Back in the workshops, there are more magic hitches to overcome. The revolving wardrobe, which is to spin the children in and out of Narnia, is in danger of doing too many revolutions and overwinding its mechanism, presumably stranding them in no-man's land.

Ward looks a little weary. When it comes to magic, it seems technical wizardry just can't keep up with spells.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe previews from 24 Nov and opens on 1 Dec at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 295623).

The loon with all the tunes

OVER THE past couple of years, it seems that Clint Boon, the former leader and keyboard player of the Inspiral Carpets, has been tooling away in Roachdale, formulating key-hoard-led pop spiced with humour that he suggests should be filed under "Space Opera".

A couple of immediately catchy singles released this year on the tiny Rabid Badger imprint were supposed to mark a low profile re-entry into the pop world, but they gained significant airplay on Radio 1FM. Reams of reviews also saw critics openly admitting they'd been taken by surprise by the freshness of Boon's tongue-in-cheek pop with garage rock and psychedelic attachments.

The Inspiral always had a sense of humour lurking somewhere, and now that he has

POP

CLINT BOON
EXPERIENCE

THE GARAGE, LONDON N1

been given a free rein, Boon has created a pleasantly comic showpiece. Before the band came on, the clues were there: a banner with the Bonney Tunes logo, a cardboard cut-out of Boon himself, and his organ placed centre stage, fronted by a moose head lit up by fairy lights. Boon entered more in the manner of a stand-up comic than a pop star, encouraging the audience to whoop and cheer before he unbuckled his shirt to reveal that famous Inspiral T-shirt with the image of a moose bearing the legend "Cool as Fuck".

Sporting short hair, an upgrade on his previous band's

moptop fashion, he also showed in the first number that his own singing was an improvement on that of Inspiral's vocalist, Tom Hinkley. The gig really didn't last until the third song and current single "White No Sugar", a number about Internet culture graced with lines such as "creation was an anagram of reaction" and the splendid ending of "Mr Boon play that tune!". Mr Boon acknowledged the cheers and smiling faces by standing up and showing off that T-shirt again. He followed swiftly with the even better "Only One Way I Can Go", an exuberant pop classic enriched by wild kazoos sounds. The crowd seem to be boozing, but really it was his nascent fanbase who have already come up with the greeting of "Boooo-ooooon!"

The rest of the songs alternated between possible future singles, such as the excellent "Comet Theme Number One" and the more laboured punky number of "Can't Keep A Good Man Down".

Though the set lasted just half an hour, it petered to a close. It wasn't their best ever performance, possibly because The Garage, with its low-slung ceiling, tiny window of a stage, and drab black walls that do work well for punk gigs, was just too cold a setting for the warmth and theatricals of a CBE show.

An encore featured the slow,

erotic melody of "Not Enough Purple Too Much Grey", which was followed up by an organ-driven romp through the Stooges' "I Wanna Be Your Dog". He'd saved the night, as should be expected from a true showman who possesses a head full of tunes.

TIM PERRY

Shameless rock'n'rollers

POP

JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE LONDON

necessary to make his band more than some bogus mismatch of wifish, Bryce-neened cool and armadillos-in-their-underwear shamelessness.

Since ditching the splenetic excesses of the Eighties noise terrorists, Pussy Galore, Spences has used the Blues Explosion to kick up a right rock'n'roll rumpus. Mixing blues, soul, funk, hip-hop and punk, they have made a promiscuous assault on any idea of musical history as being pure and sacred.

Their latest wily coyote of an album, *Acme*, is a deliciously ripe blend of new and old. At

one extreme, it boasts the hot and drooling soul sizzler of "Do You Wanna Get Heavy?". At the other, there's "Attack", head-on collaboration-cum-collision with Alec Empire. For just two minutes, the Blues Explosion becomes the John Spencer Robo-Spunge.

Clearly, Spencer isn't all mouth and no trousers. He wastes no time on idle banter, he besides a frequent and oddly comical haw of "Bloooze Explosion". His trousers aren't to be sniffed at either. They are without a doubt the tightest leather deal in town. It would be churlish to knock a man who is prepared to strangle himself at the crotch purely for the sake of our entertainment.

Musically, the thumping bump and "Ooooh" grind of "Talk About the Blues", and the milk-smooth and slinky "Magical Colours" are showstoppers. The absence of a bass player in the band keeps the guitar-tweaking of "High Gear" fleet-footed and urgent, like Beck with wings.

Any lapse in testosterone is compensated for by butch drummer, Russell Simins. Suspiciously dressed in a tastelessly shimmering blue shirt, he looks like he could double as the bodyguard for his two skinny compadres and he plays his kit with what can only be described as a homicidal intent.

Never mind that Spencer is a style criminal and a dodgy pimp of pastiche. As long as he plays this rock'n'roll bark like he really means it, and keeps roping in outsiders to keep it lively, the one genuine violation here is that this was the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion's only British date.

KENNY HANLEY

Austerity to raise the hairs on the back of your neck

CLASSICAL

ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR/TALLIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL LONDON

something of a New Age icon, the plain figures of his "mystic minimalism" chiming well with the body of taste that has reacted against the excesses of Modernism, as indeed Part turned from his own earlier

Tüür, who was born in 1959, seems to be evolving towards the same ecstatic spirituality. His brief *Passion for strings* (1993), begins with simple phrases, low in cellos and basses, but then grows more and more animated as folk-like fragments gradually lift the focal point of the texture. The music,

though the same austere/ecstatic sound-world. Again, it grows from an opening low in the chorus, the strings weaving increasingly frantic commentary around the vocal lines as they move up to the first climax at "Tuba mirum", with the piano now adding a manic commentary and the soprano and mezzo-soprano interjecting a few brief shrieks that recall the shamanistic music of his countryman, Veljo Tormis - this being the first time that this has sounded so explicitly Estonian.

The choir outlines a dislocated

chorale before silence suddenly crashes in, and the solo soprano movingly intones the "Recordare". The choir slowly re-establishes the outward movement, ignoring the piano which suggests that one of Messiaen's exotic birds had perched on Tüür's score. Again, a dip into calm growth as the music moves towards the great cry of "Requiem eternam" that crowns the whole work; it fades to nothing and a single triangle stroke kisses it farewell.

His *Litanie* of 1994 is much more impressive. An English setting of 24 short prayers of St John Chrysostom, for solo quartet (here, the pure-toned Hilliard Ensemble), chorus and chamber orchestra, it builds very carefully: moving down the solo voices (with answering chorus) one by one, then two by two, then three and four, at which point choir

and orchestra are allowed their first climax.

All the while, the music remains as plain and affecting as a hermit's cell. Though Part allows the chorus more freedom of action in the second half, he is still keeping its power dry. Then the accumulated energy is released in a thrilling climax as the text calls for God to do His will. The music ringing and swinging in exultant phrases that the hairs on the nape of your neck on end. Finally, a gentle epilogue lays it all to rest.

MARTIN ANDERSON



Instead of flirty ones John Lewis
has come up with what's been described as the 'hottest' new range of clothes. It's the latest in the trend of 'feminine' men's wear, which includes everything from blouses and skirts to trousers and jackets. The collection features a variety of styles, from classic tailoring to more relaxed, casual looks. Prices range from £25 to £125.

It's not just men who are getting involved in the trend. Women are also embracing it, with many brands introducing their own versions of men's clothing. One such brand is H&M, which has recently launched its own men's collection. The collection features a range of items, including shirts, trousers, and jackets, all designed with a focus on comfort and style. Prices range from £25 to £125.

The collection is available at H&M stores across the UK. It's a great way to add some variety to your wardrobe without having to break the bank.

From tomboy mechanic in Neighbours, bottom left, to today's sultry fashion model for H&M Hennes, main picture, Kylie has gone through endless changes in look and sound - but to what effect?

Her first mistake was trying to cast off the teen queen image.

Donovan.

Under the watchful eye of the chart-hugging label Stock, Aitken and Waterman, a string of hit singles transformed her from the endearingly smudged car mechanic, Charlene, to a gloriously fluffy disco diva.

Minogue had all the makings of a conquering pop star.

She always looked fantastic and her voice was no worse, and perhaps even a little better, than your average fabricated adolescent idol.

But it was this display of shallowness that sanctioned Minogue's success,

and of all her incarnations, she has always seemed most at home with this saucy, soapy persona.

The pinky-plonky pop

of her first hits appealed to a gay

kitsch sensibility, while her girl-

next-door innocence and repetitive choruses satisfied the pre-teen thirst for tack.

Substance? Who needs it when you can melt a thousand hearts in a feather boa and six-inch heels?

Her first mistake was trying

to cast off the teen queen image.

In attempting to come over as

a "serious artiste", she has for-

feted the very audience that has

kept her in fluffy frocks for

nearly a decade.

But in a bid to get hip quick,

she signed with the indie dance

label, Deconstruction, donned the wig and suspenders and began a relationship with

leather-clad INXS singer,

Michael Hutchence. But rather

than being transformed into a

ranchy dominatrix, Minogue

ended up looking like an over

made-up adolescent girl who

had just raided her mother's

wardrobe. Time to bring in the

image consultants.

Pitching for a mature mar-

ket, Minogue played the soul

diva for her eponymous 1994

album, sporting Miss Mon-

eppeny-style specs and a suit

and swapping Hutchence for

the dreadlocked rocker, Lenny

Kravitz. Since then, she has

adopted musical styles as if try-

ing on a selection of the season's

best dresses. In her last album,

she blandly steamed through

every musical genre, from am-

bient jazz and drum'n'bass to

trip hop, Britpop, and rock.

Others have made the transi-

tion from tack teen-idol to

credible pop icon without a

hitch, so why not Kylie?

Madonna has successfully rein-

vented herself with each album

and even after a year of

rock'n'roll excess, Robbie

Williams has transformed his

seemingly doomed career into

a triumphant return to the lime-

light. But for both Madonna and

Williams, the wardrobe has fol-

lowed the music, rather than prece-

ded it. While Madonna maniacally maps out the path of

her career, Minogue seems to be

forever at a crossroads.

As well as furnishing her

with lots of starry suitors,

Minogue's dizzy malleability

has also given rise to a se-

quence of impressive musical

collaborations including Nick

Cave, The Grid and the Manic

Street Preachers. Through

these partnerships we have

been introduced to artyKylie,

gothKylie, danceKylie and re-

cently, indieKylie. But though

they all afforded her fleeting

flashes of musical credibility, in

each instance it was clear that

she was more than happy to

have the script written for her.

But then imagination was

never her forte. Just look at her

album titles: *Kylie*, *Kylie Minogue* and *Kylie Minogue*.

And the lyrics for this latest dis-

astrous album were mostly

penned by the pint-sized diva

herself. When manufactured

pop stars decide to get involved

in the songwriting process, they

can generally kiss their careers

goodbye. Ironically, one of the

album's better tracks is called

"I Don't Need Anyone", a song

which was co-written by the

Manic Street Preacher's James

Dean Bradfield.

Now Minogue has run out of

collaborators and, style-wise,

has left herself with nowhere

else to go. Her recent excursion

into the world of fashion as a

model of H&M Hennes fashion

store, following in the hra-

modelling footsteps of Eva

Herzogová, has been met with

derision and viewed as further

evidence of her quest for some

sort of identity.

But against all the odds, the

one area where Minogue has

found success is in making us

like her. Her desperation for ac-

ceptance makes her seem re-

freshingly human, compared to the

chilly detachment of Madon-

na and the cocky enthusiasm of

Robbie Williams. We feel frus-

tration rather than malice when

confronted by each erroneous

incarnation and we genuinely

want her to succeed. Even with

our reluctance to invest in her

albums, we remain fascinated by

what could possibly come next.

After all, how can anyone

dislike that sweet, grinning

face that was Charlene? And

who could resist those delicious

lashes and that post-coital

smile? For all her flaws, it is her

innocent charm that has sus-

tained her for over a decade and

whatever misguided decisions

she may make now, could well

see her through another one.

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NETWORK

Profit-making through the portal

America Online's purchase of Netscape gives it access to subscribers who are using portal sites. By Stephen Pritchard

Four billion dollars might seem a large price to pay for a company that gives away its best-known product. But, in a business that is starting to take brands very seriously, America Online's deal to buy Netscape, makers of the Navigator and Communicator browser software packages, makes sense.

AOL is already the world's largest consumer Internet company: in the UK alone, it has over 500,000 subscribers. Last year, AOL bought the rival service provider CompuServe. Buying Netscape gives AOL access to some important technologies, especially in electronic commerce. It also gives AOL ownership of Netscape's Netcenter, one of the world's most popular websites. The cost of the deal is around \$4.2bn.

In the last year, Netscape has changed its business. It is no longer simply a software company; instead,

it is also a media and advertising company. Since it launched Netcenter in June, 9 million Internet users have registered with the site. "Portal" sites such as Netcenter are increasingly important on the Net. There are now so many websites that surfing (or looking for sites on an almost random basis) is a waste of time. Internet users find it easier to go first to a portal site such as Netcenter, or one of the search engines. Portals are a key source of revenue on the Net: the large audiences they attract make them premium places to advertise.

"Netscape is not an Internet service provider, and it does not have a subscriber base," says James Eblisch, Internet analyst at IDC. "But there is the emerging area of the portals. This effectively gives Netscape - even though it started as a software company - subscribers through membership of the Netcenter site. Huge numbers go

through that site every day." AOL will now have access to those users and will be able to drive traffic on to its other Internet operations.

E-commerce, or selling goods and services over the Net, is a key move. In a parallel move, AOL announced plans to develop a new e-commerce package together with Sun Microsystems, to encourage bricks and mortar businesses to sell online.

"AOL sees the opportunity to build more of its business around e-commerce," suggests Simon Hayward, at the Gartner Group analysts. "Having the portfolio of Netscape products supports that. Netscape has already proved itself in building e-commerce sites."

The launch of subscription-free Internet services, such as Dixon's FreeServe, supports the view that in the future Internet companies will rely more and more on revenues from electronic shopping and ser-

vices such as advertising rather than subscription fees. "AOL is the landlord of Internet commercial property," says Hayward. "AOL provides the property where specialist

company and it has been bruised by competition from Microsoft. Recently, Microsoft's Internet Explorer overtook Netscape Navigator as the most popular Web browser.

For Internet service companies, there could be disadvantages in relying on Netscape software owned by a competitor as powerful as AOL. AOL plans to run Netscape as an independent business, as it does with CompuServe. In fact, AOL will continue to build its own subscribers' Internet access software around Explorer - not least because it gives Windows users access to AOL from the desktop.

"It is good for the Net," suggests Roy Bliss, the managing director of Demon Internet. "It bolsters the Netscape browser and that can only be good for consumers because they have a choice." Observers believe that the benefits of a stronger competitor to Microsoft outweigh the disadvantages of another

Internet service provider - AOL - owning the Netscape browser technology.

"There is immense competition out there," says John Swingewood, the director of Internet and multimedia at BT. "My agreements with Netscape are very clear: I buy software from them. We are in a world where we have both co-operation and competition." He points out that BT's partners in Line One - United News & Media and News International - compete in other markets but are happy to work together on the Net.

Swingewood, though, has been on a shopping expedition of his own. Last week BT bought 50 per cent of Excite UK, the search engine and portal, from its US parent. The fee, \$10m, is small change in light of the AOL-Netscape deal, but it shows the importance that companies such as BT are now placing on portal sites. Excite UK will continue as a joint

venture between BT and Excite Inc. and the site will keep its branding. BT, though, plans to use Excite as a channel for its own electronic commerce developments. Swingewood believes the combination of Excite, a well-known brand on the Net, and BT, a name UK consumers trust, will be very powerful. "As more and more people come on to the Net, our research shows that BT is a company they trust for transactions," he says. "The joint venture with Excite moves us up into the new revenue streams of advertising and e-commerce."

The number of mergers, deals and takeovers on the Net is bound to grow as the Internet reaches more and more households. Well-known names will have the edge. "This is really about some serious brands making their moves," says Swingewood. "The big brands are really taking this seriously, and they are moving at a serious pace."

Disguising a cottage industry

The information superhighway comes to Wales. By Steve Homer

THIS IS without doubt the best-connected "farm" in the world. You wouldn't believe it to look at it, but it is the main thoroughfare of Britain's information superhighway. With cows grazing over the fence and a cattle grid by the front gate, you would be forgiven for thinking the most exciting thing to happen would be the milk tanker arriving. But pop inside to make a call and you shouldn't have trouble getting a line. Every single phone call made between the UK and America (and a lot more besides) could flow across the kitchen table - if there were one. You can make one million calls at a time from Home Farm.

The stone cottage and its outbuildings are not what they seem. It contains some of the most sophisticated power-generation and telecommunications equipment money can buy. The "farm" in Oxwich Bay, south Wales, is the disguised landing point for half of a pair of cables called Gemini that, between them, more than double the capacity of the nine communica-

cations cables currently connecting Europe and America. Gemini, which has just come on stream, will have a capacity of 30 gigabits per second when it is fully commissioned next July. To put this in context, the cable could transmit over four thousand 150,000-word novels a second; 30,000 photographs a second; 6,000 TV channels; or one million simultaneous phone calls. But where the capacity is needed is to transmit the text and pictures that make up the millions of pages of the World Wide Web. With the US still the home of the vast majority of web sites, and demand for Internet services continuing to rocket, pressure on the transatlantic Internet "backbone" is always high, and at times the infrastructure has been breaking.

The backers of Gemini (Britain's Cable and Wireless and America's Worldcom) have completed the project in double-quick time. The cables have been laid in less than two years since the two companies decided to launch the project,

The cottage and outbuildings of Home Farm in South Wales disguise some of the most sophisticated telecommunications equipment money can buy

which has cost over half a billion dollars. "It's been an incredible rush to get this system up and running," says Mark Heraghty, managing director of Cable and Wireless's international business. "Over 70 per cent of content accessed comes from the US and, with traffic growing at about 100 per cent a year, capacity was becoming a problem." Gemini is a remarkable piece of engineering. The traffic will be carried over eight optical fibres, each as thin as a hair. While the eight fibres are housed in armoured cables, they are in a demanding environment. In places, the two 6,000-kilometre cables have been dropped into waters five miles deep and across under-sea mountain

chains. Mountains are, unsurprisingly, not good for the cables, but it is coastal waters where the biggest dangers lurk. Repairing a cable deep underwater is not easy. Should the unimaginable happen, the other cable will keep working while a repair ship puts to sea. Users will notice no difference.

Gemini is built in a ring structure to make it more resistant to failures at any one point. A "terrestrial" UK ring links London with the cable stations at Lands End and Wales; a "wet" ring links the two UK cable stations and the two US cable stations at New Jersey and Rhode Island, and a "terrestrial" ring links New York with the two US cable stations.

But the Internet is not about to double in speed. "While most of the congestion on the Internet has been on these backbones," says Suresh Sarkar of telecoms analysts Ovum, "congestion is now moving towards the local access network, that last part of the worldwide phone network that connects into the home."

Even the backbone is not going to be big enough for long. Cable and Wireless and Worldcom are partners in a new cable that will come into operation in two years and will offer 20 times the bandwidth of Gemini. "Our need for capacity just seems to know no bounds for the next 10 years at least," says Sarkar.

Six awkward questions to ask your new Internet Service Provider.

1

Can you provide me with Internet access for £5 a month?

2

Can you give me low cost telephone and Internet call charges through your own national telephone network?

3

Can you guarantee no set-up costs?

4

Can you give me 5 e-mail addresses as well as 10Mb of web space?

5

Can you offer me a 24 hour/365 day award-winning customer helpline at low call rates?

6

Do you think I should call 0800 052 5678?

NTL The Digital TeleNetwork

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Combating social exclusion

A CAMPAIGN to bring IT expertise and sponsorship to voluntary groups will be launched tomorrow.

The initiative, CommUnity, aims to persuade firms to donate time, skilled personnel and computer equipment to charities, voluntary organisations and community groups.

The campaign is being organised by Business in the Community, a registered charity set up to encourage social investment by big business. BIC has hundreds of corporate members, including 80 of the FTSE 100 companies.

CommUnity will be chaired by Martin Trees, president of the BBC's Webwise Campaign, the DTT's Action on IT and Social Exclusion and the government IT For All programme. Many prominent firms are believed to have expressed interest.

Charity leaders hope the campaign will succeed. "Information and communications technologies can be powerful tools for charities but smaller groups may be missing out," according to Dorothy Dalton of the Association of Chief Executives of National Voluntary Organisations.

The campaign steering group includes British Telecom, EDS, Halifax plc, Hill and

Knowlton, ICL, Post Office Counters and the Department of Trade and Industry.

"One of our first projects will be matching business people willing to volunteer their IT skills with appropriate community beneficiaries," said Mr Trees. "IBM has designed and donated an internet-based system, COMMIT, which we will use to build up this time and skills bank nationally."

"The millennium bug is another big issue because charities lacking in IT expertise are at special risk," he added.

The campaign will link with other initiatives such as the BBC's Webwise Campaign, the DTT's Action on IT and Social Exclusion and the government IT For All programme. Many prominent firms are believed to have expressed interest.

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zations.

Action 2000 also welco-

mes the initiative. "Expertise, experience and best practice are increasingly shared on a business-to-business level and we would like to see the voluntary sector drawn into that

net," said a spokesman.

The campaign will be launched at the House of Commons tomorrow by DTI minister Barbara Roche.

ANDY FARQUHARSON

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mas

are things for which I am pleased to show it downsize e-mail. Thanksgiving marks the onset of Any day now - my dear wife will tell me and announce she has come to shift stomach and get her devotions. This moment for me and Jason, since it's a physical exertion, even by electricity, event through a lot he collaborates and clear mucus - all the power to do me a permanent injury. I feel that today still, it hasn't got and for that of my sincerest

Notes from a
By Bill Bryson,
Daily Mail, price
of all major
by mail order

Hitting the right notes

Jason and Matthew Olim began an online music store in a basement four years ago. Now worth \$23m, they've become an Internet legend. By Tamsin Todd

When Tony Blair applauded leaders of the e-commerce revolution in his address to the Commons for the new session of Parliament, he probably had people like Jason Olim in mind. Four years ago, in one of those moves that's become Internet legend, Olim and his twin brother Matthew launched the online music store CDnow from their parents' basement, with an investment of \$20,000. At the time there were few commercial ventures on the Internet, and no success stories: Amazon bookstore didn't open for another year. In its first year CDnow sold \$2m worth of music. In the first half of 1998, sales exceeded \$23m.

CDnow has secured rights to be the exclusive music seller on top sites such as Yahoo and Lycos, and a recent merger with competitor N2K increased its share of the online music market to about 45 per cent. With initiatives in place to increase its international visibility and incorporate new technologies such as digital distribution, the still-young company looks like an important player - in both the online and off-line music retail industries.

But money wasn't much on the brothers' minds when they conceived the company, says 28-year-old Olim, in London last week to promote the launch of CDnow's UK website. Their main goal, he says, was "to build a better music store". As Olim describes it, there was a gap in the music retail market that badly needed fixing. He remembers a frustrating visit to his local record

store. A friend had loaned him a copy of *Kind of Blue*, and he was looking for more Miles Davis. The advice he got from the store staff was to look in the jazz section.

"Retail stores have lost sight of what they're really doing," he says. "Good music stores are the ones that help you learn, because they realise that their mission is not to make money off of selling the album. It's to get you to be a happier person because you've found music that makes you happy."

Olim, who was working as a software engineer, realised that he could use the Internet to connect customers to music.

"I was sitting in a bar one night and it dawned on me that I could solve my Miles Davis problem. I could put a database of albums together with a database of reviews and make it available on the Internet." CDnow would provide "what people really need - someone who's going to help them find the music that makes them happy."

On the CDnow website, customers can browse reviews, artist biographies, events listings, buyers' guide, charts and archives such as *Rolling Stone* magazine. Sound samples are available, so that customers can listen to parts of an album before they buy it. There's a personal shopping service that remembers customers' preferences and makes recommendations for them, and for last-minute Christmas shoppers there are gift certificates that can be ordered and delivered by e-mail up to 24 December. Customers can browse and search the archive of 350,000 CDs, tapes, vinyl records, videos, books and other music-

related items in stock. Regular customers can enrol in a frequent buyers' program and earn points towards free products.

Buying itself is easy: customers fill their virtual shopping cart by clicking on the items they want, then enter credit card details. UK customers currently pay US prices, plus shipping and handling.

CDnow is especially proud of its customer service. Representatives can be reached by e-mail or telephone 24 hours a day, are fluent in 12 languages, and they are music experts - DJs, musicians and die-hard fans.

More than half of CDnow's customers are over 30. Olim explains that the depth of the catalogue and level of expertise is attractive to older customers, who may be searching for eclectic music that is not available on the high street.

Dressed casually, his sprained ankle (a kayaking injury) propped on the coffee table, Olim looks and sounds like a typical Generation-X entrepreneur who's found a way to combine work with his love of music, and is more interested in providing a service than making money. But although CDnow ships to many countries, Olim wants the company to become more international.

To do that, CDnow will offer multilingual websites, pricing in local currencies and shipping from local sources. Starting early next year, there will be a UK-specific site with prices in pounds and UK-specific content, such as coverage of local festivals. Already, many European orders are shipped from a

warehouse in Holland which contains about 150,000 European titles.

With its purchase earlier this year of superSonic Boom, a custom CD company, CDnow is also moving into the custom compilation market. Customers pick out individual tracks they'd like to have together on an album. CDnow manufactures the CD, prints a cover and ships it out. CDnow has custom compilation agreements with record companies, including EMI, for over 60,000 tracks in total.

The development

is really

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With

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CDnow

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their

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CD-writers

to

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CDs.

However, there are barriers. One is hardware: only a few million people have the CD-writers they need to produce downloaded albums; another is the record companies, who are unwilling to authorise digital distribution, fearing their products will be illegally replicated. But that's already happening, explains Olim. Millions of people have software that allows them to trade music files electronically - and illegally. "The best way to fight piracy is to offer a legitimate alternative," says Olim. "By offering a legitimate digital download which is encrypted, we can reduce piracy and create incremental sales."

And what happens beyond digital distribution? "I don't know. But you know what? We'll be ready when it does come. We'll probably be the ones to figure it out."



Jason Olim: 'Good music stores help you learn'

Peter Mangan

Entering the fourth era

LAST WEEK saw the end of an era for Web design, when America Online (AOL) purchased Netscape Communications Corporation. Despite its short history, seven years at best, Web design has passed through three eras, distinguished partially by the browsers being used at the time but also by the parties producing those technologies.

The first era of Web design began with the first graphics-capable Web browser to gain wide acceptance, Mosaic. Few remember this prehistoric period of Web design, before there were tables or frames or even font tags. These were simple days when the thought of doing actual "business" on the web seemed like a bastardization of the concept.

When Marc Andreessen left Mosaic to create a commercial Web browser, Netscape, a second era of Web design began. This was the Golden Age when HTML 2.0 was the standard, and Netscape 1, and a little later Netscape 2, made up over 90 per cent of the browser market. Phrases such as "cross-browser issues" and "backward compatibility" were yet to be coined on news-groups and discussion lists. Web Designers were a desperately sought commodity even by the big companies that were struggling to understand what this new media would mean to their business.

Then came the browser wars, the third era of Web design, the era that came to an end last week. This era started when Microsoft introduced a browser that could seriously contend with Netscape's browser, Internet Explorer 3, and began a massive marketing campaign to get their browser placed onto every computer in the land. During this period many small time Web operations that had become overnight successes during the golden age folded, while others merged, and e-business became the constant buzzword. Web design was no longer about "code once, use anywhere" but we were forced to test, test, test.

With the purchase of



and threatened to take it away unless everybody agreed to play by his rules.

The other players in the game, not only Microsoft's colleagues and competitors but the public as well, have allowed Microsoft to get away with its immature behaviour for far too long now.

Several people have asked me this week "Are you glad AOL bought Netscape?" To which I reply "No." And then add "...but it's better than Netscape disappearing altogether."

It's not that I hate AOL. My guilty secret is that after graduating university it was my first non-collegiate ISP. However, AOL is a different kind of company than Netscape and I question its ability to keep up the same pioneering spirit that, in its brief life span, has been Netscape's hallmark.

Will Netscape become homogenized with AOL? Will we see Navigator become as clumsy and simplistic as the AOL interface?

Will AOL push for standards or will it incorporate its own proprietary code?

No other media is as inexorably linked to its medium as the Web is to the Web browser. There are few changes in paper technology that would be radical enough to necessitate an overhaul in the way in which print designers do their work, much less require them to rethink and relearn their design skills.

However, for Web design, every new browser or plug-in means new skills to learn, new ways of presenting our content, and new constraints to make sure that our sites work ubiquitously, whenever controls the browser, controls the Web.

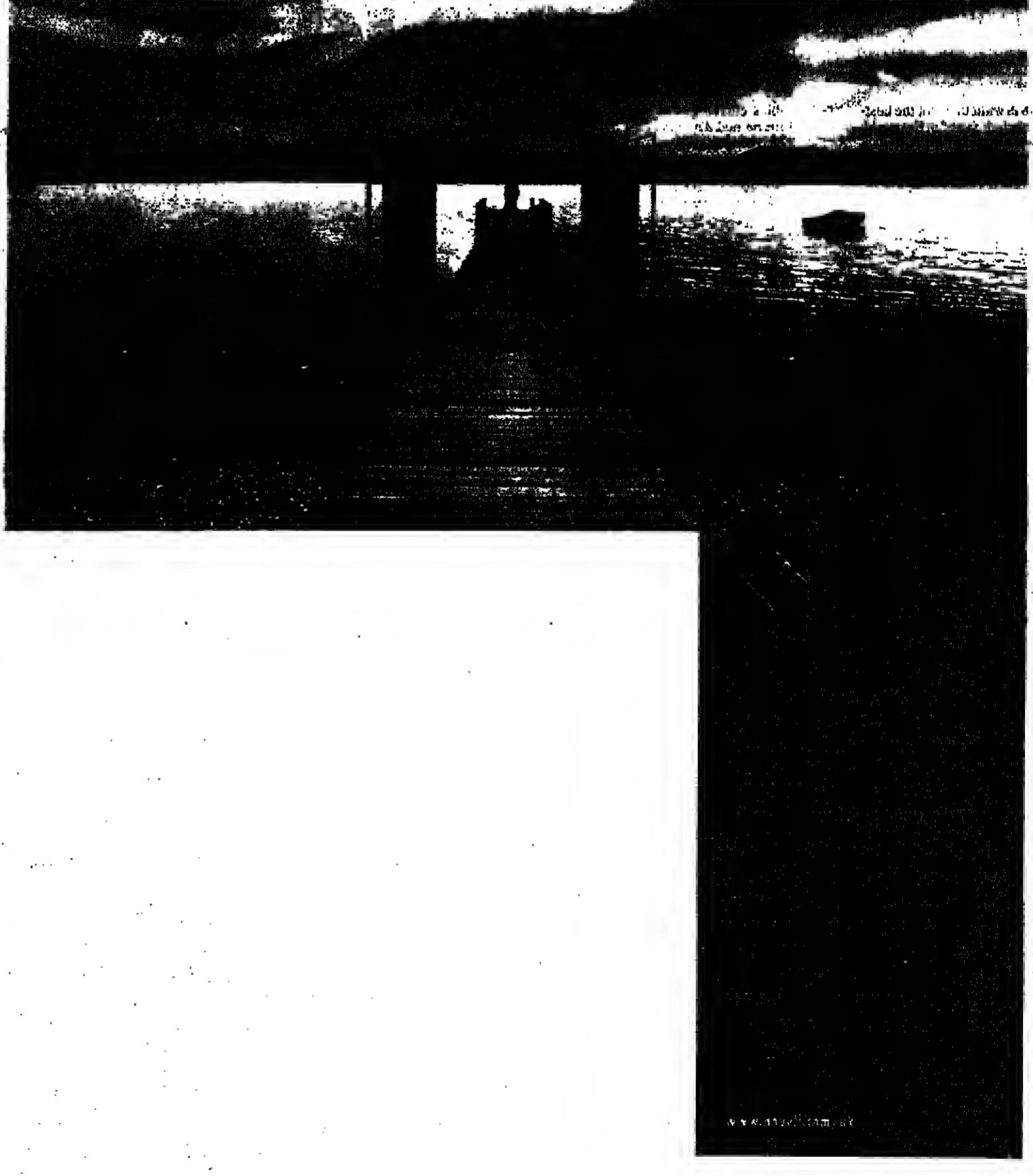
There is hope. Last April Netscape released the code to create the Navigator browser into the public domain (<http://www.independent.co.uk/net/9904/me/story5.htm>). This means that despite the fact that AOL owns the company, it does not own the code used to make the browser, and Navigator browser can be produced independent of what AOL decides to do with the code.

Still, for a piece of software, any software, to become popular, it has to be installed first. Most home computer buyers will simply accept whatever browser comes pre-installed.

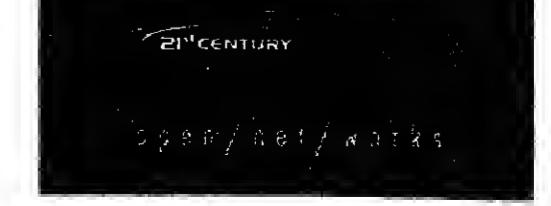
We can not predict exactly how this change will play out in the future, but there is little question in my mind that it will have a significant impact on the Web and, consequently, on the way we do Web design.

E-mail comments or queries to Jason at indy_webdesign@indyguru.com

A closed network is a contradiction in terms



Novell.



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How Daleks climbed the stairs

Dr Who

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho/>
WHOLE SITES are devoted to working out the Doctor's obscure chronology, but the BBC's official 25th-anniversary page is a straightforward, paradox-free overview. All eight incarnations, from Hartnell to McGee, are profiled, along with an aliencast file for those who don't know their Quarks from their Krotons, an online quiz with mystery prizes and telling details of how the Daleks finally learn to climb stairs (in a 1986 episode). Special effects, surprisingly, are thin on the ground - though the Tardis does flicker mysteriously in and out of view. Key links lead to Whofans worldwide, and include the struggles of the technically painstaking Dr Who Restoration Team.

Online Surgery

<http://www.onlinesurgery.com/>
VIEWERS MAY emerge from this site grateful for the current limitations of video streaming techniques. The nervous should certainly start with a relatively opaque 23.8K liposuction, before graduating to the full ISDN-speed tummy tuck. Entire cosmetic

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

operations are online here. Controversially, would-be participants are invited to e-mail explaining just how that nose-job would improve their lives, and the most convincing responses qualify for free treatment - with the world looking on. Though highly informative for the unsqueamish, this is of course a commercial undertaking, run by a Seattle-based provider of adult and gambling sites.

NatureSongs

<http://www.naturesongs.com/>
THIS DIGITALLY empowered bird-watcher spends hours on a ladder with minidisc recorder and directional microphone, capturing the sounds of the natural world. The resulting huge archive is here: finches, flycatchers, blackbirds, orioles, wrens, woodpeckers and more, along with unfeathered friends such as toads, bullfrogs, howling coyotes and various creepy crawlies. His own speculations take flight. "Bird brain," he says,

should not be a term of abuse, referring as it does to a complex structure designed for rapid in-flight calculations. And bird song could be a means of direct communication with the subconscious. This last concept, he admits, is still to be explored.

Mac OS8 - Netscape

<http://www.hin.de/yaro/macos/>
SOME PC buyers wish that they had spent their money on an Apple instead. This site will generate the appearance of an Apple-style desktop within a Windows browser. A jolly jape from a German webhead, this Java creation won't really do much: it starts up convincingly but the file menu merely enables mail to be sent to its creator, and the desktop offers only three applications, including a non-working "memory game". There are, however, links to available programs for running real Apple software on PCs.

The Postmodernism Generator

<http://www.cs.monash.edu.au/cgi-bin/postmodern>
THIS OLDE-but-goodie may be a cousin of the Surrealist Compliment Generator, but will also appeal to fans



Tom Baker's Dr Who, with co-star Louise Jameson

of Alan Sokal's send-up of the alleged misuse of science by poststructuralist penseurs. Clicking on the above link will lead to a dense academic treatise, in which the usual suspects - Baudrillard, Derrida, Lyotard and all the others - circulate with impeccable authority. But readers will subsequently discover that "the essay just

seen is completely meaningless and was randomly generated by the Postmodernism Generator". Seemingly it is all the work of a Dada Engine which, fed with the requisite verbiage, produces nonsense with a disconcerting surface panache: a similar effect may well be obtainable using computer jargon.

MANY PEOPLE dislike their computers. They hit them, swear at them, and as a last resort, hurl them through the window.

They crash at the worst possible moment or slow down to unbearable speed. Such days are bad days. Sometimes, when things go wrong I find myself staring at the screen wondering how a machine can be so rude, crashing without a word of warning. How could I predict that installing my new sound card would upset my machine to the point that no network activity would be possible?

This lack of interest in having a dialogue with me is leading the relationship with my laptop down a dangerous path where I might have to trade it for a younger model. Perhaps a slim and sexy Toshiba Portage. Or even cooler, superslim Sony Vaio. Isn't it what happens in relationships where there is no communication?

According to Sanford University researchers, Clifford Nass and Byron Reeves, if the computers were more polite to us, spoke with a female voice and flattered us over jobs that were well done, we would be more forgiving when things turned nasty.

I still remember when it was cool to give your computer the start up voices of Hal from 2001 or Darth Vader from Star Wars. We were wrong, it transpires, as having a machine with a dominant, kick-ass, macho attitude is not conducive to developing a meaningful relationship that can survive crashes and frozen screens.

It can be your software, hardware, network or plain loose cables that put obstacles in the way of productivity. Error messages in techno-Klingon language rarely pass for a meaningful communication and self-problem solving for computers is a long way away. However, as the Stanford researchers point out, giving computers personality appears to strengthen resilience of users, whose commitment and patience will grow out of two-way communication.

Interestingly, according to Nass and Reeves, people who have used computers for a longer period of time, had more propensity to anthropomorphise the machines. That means with time, our relationship with the silicon chips and a few wires grows on us, and leads us to project human per-



EVA PASCOE

I often reassure myself looking at the cables at the back that it really is only a machine

sonality on the computer. With gathering experiences, small successes and some failures we are developing a picture of the machine, and with time fill the uncomprehensible behaviour with explanations.

My mother thinks my laptop behaves just like me, unpredictable, neurotic with occasional flashes of brilliance. She says that like dogs, laptops reflect the owner's personality.

I often reassure myself looking at the cables at the back that it is only a machine. What confused me even more was giving my laptop a voice.

During a brief testing of AOL software I was called into communication by Joanna Lumley siren-like whisper saying invitingly: "You have mail!" Suddenly my e-mails, even to my accountant, have acquired a deeper tone of complicity, if not intimacy.

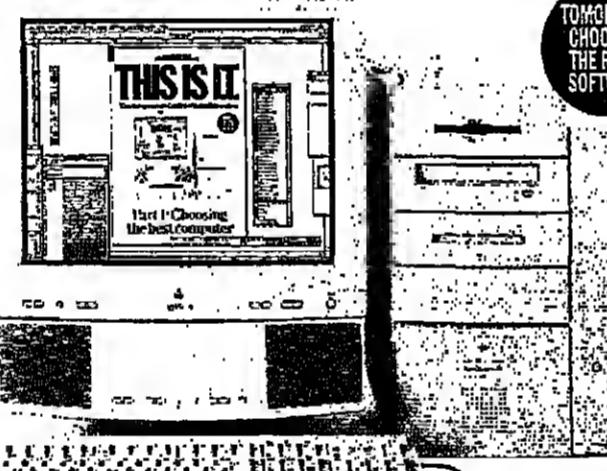
According to a character in Star Trek, intelligence, self-awareness and consciousness are the criteria for sentience. If equipping my laptop with Joanna Lumley personality will make me more productive then I will certainly go for it. However, what if it outshines me and starts questioning the content of my work, not just improving the speed of it? Can I bear criticism from a mid-range machine? If my computer was my teammate as opposed to my tool, would I be able to accept its occasional superiority? All those questions are put, if not answered, in *The Media Equation: How people treat computers* by Nass and Reeves.

Read it, but meanwhile mail me with your comments on the relationship with your computer at Eva@never.com

Starting this Saturday in THE INDEPENDENT

THIS IS IT

The Independent Guide to Home Computing

TOMORROW:
CHOOSING
THE RIGHT
SOFTWARE

Part 1: Choosing the right computer

Everything you need to know about Home Computing in our free 128 page four part series

PART 1 Choosing the right computer

PART 2 Choosing the right software

PART 3 Getting the most out of the Internet

PART 4 Choosing the right portables,
accessories and hand held PCs

Why love bytes are so PC

MANY PEOPLE dislike their computers. They hit them, swear at them, and as a last resort, hurl them through the window.

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THE INDEPENDENT

WIN ONE YEARS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET - FREE

The Independent are offering the readers the opportunity to win one of twenty subscriptions the Martin Dawes Telecommunications Internet Service currently £99.99 - 'breathe on line' with free 24hr technical support and unlimited access.

There are ten runners up prizes of 'breathe assistant' the new one number service from Martin Dawes Telecommunications. As 'breathe on line' is so simple to use they have sponsored 'The Plain English Guide to the Internet'. All entrants will receive this guide free.

All you have to do is dial the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name and full address and daytime contact number:

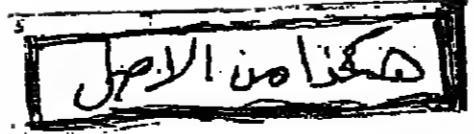
Q: What is e-mail short for?

- a) Easy Mail
- b) Electronic Mail
- c) Express Mail

CALL 0901 477 7321

Calls cost 40p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Monday 30 November 1998. There are no alternative prizes or cash substitutes. Normal Independent rules apply. The Editor's decision is final.

breathe^{MD} on line



MY TECHNOLOGY: THE SHAMEN'S MR C RAVES ABOUT HIS STATE-OF-THE-ART STUDIO

You can't beat the sound system

We have always used technology to its fullest potential with what we do at the End club and everything we have done as The Shamen. We were the first club in the world to do a two way audio visual ISDN link with another club in another country. That was over two years ago. The Shamen were the first band in the world to perform live on the Internet, at the Town and Country club in Kentish Town, north London, about four years ago.

And three years ago we were the first band in the world to release, free of charge, a single on the Internet. We still don't use it commercially - we don't sell records at the End websites or merchandise. It's about using technology to express ourselves artistically and to gain information and use that information to

create sounds and experience. The sound system in the End club is built by Thunderinge. The brain of the sound system is called an Omni-Drive system and controls everything about the sound; where you want the sound and the frequencies you want in what areas. It's basically the dispersion of the sound that makes the End sound system as good as it is.

We generally have pre-sets now. Our sound engineer, Cyclone, is a really, really good engineer and he has got different settings for different nights, depending on the sound; house music is slightly warmer than techno so it would be slightly softer on the top end [treble] and fatter on the bottom [bass]. Whereas a techno night would be a bit tighter on the bottom end and more ringy on the top end. If something is very vocal heavy in the mid-range would be pulled back a little bit so the vocals



Mark Chilvers

don't distort and overpower everything else.

The sound is much more important than the DJs, as a general rule. But one is no good without the other. As a producer, I make music; it's about making music and making music that sounds correct.

Our studio is state of the art; it's Macintosh computers, power Macs, running Logical Audio with Audio Works 8 (8-track digital software). It's a tape free studio.

I physically play everything in myself. However the technology makes it so much easier; quicker and makes you a much more powerful producer. You have got the versatility there to do exactly what you please; with the technology you can craft shapes out of sound and using the best modern software sequencers you can push your sequencing to a further degree.

Shamen will still be growing and releasing music on digital files on the net. There may be performances as well, but the digital characters will be performing.

Why? Because in the physical world the whole music industry sucks. It's all about pounds, shillings and pence. There is no integrity anymore, there seems little experimentation and push as far as popular music. The Shamen is into evolving and growing and within the digital domain there are no barriers, there are no rules, and no one can tell us what we can or cannot do. Therefore as an art form the band can evolve.

The Shamen's final album, 'UV', is on now on Mosha records. More Shamen news on: www.nemeton.com

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

MICROSOFT SAID last week that it will release a modified version of Windows 98 and other software to comply with a preliminary injunction given against it by a judge in California to stop selling products that use versions of the Java programming language that do not pass Sun Microsystems' Java tests. The judge said that he issued the ruling because Sun, who brought the case against Microsoft, were likely to prevail in court. Sun accused Microsoft of violating its 1996 licence to use Java by producing a Windows specific version, and introducing non-standard features into the language that is supposed to be platform-independent.

Tom Burt, associate general counsel for Microsoft, said that while the company would comply with the preliminary injunction, executives had 30 days to file any appeal and had

not yet decided whether to do so.

A Microsoft spokesman said that the changes would be invisible to users of Windows 98 and would have no effect on how applications worked. Microsoft also said it would strip critical Java programs from its Web browser for Apple Macintosh and Unix machines.

DELL, THE world's leading direct distributor of personal computers and the third largest PC supplier overall behind Compaq and IBM, made a breakthrough to become the leading PC provider to US businesses with more than 500 employees in the third quarter of this year, according to Ziff-Davis Market Intelligence's Projected Market Study.

Dell took 29.8 per cent of the large-business market, compared with 22.6 per cent in the previous

quarter, selling 66 per cent more units over a year in which the market grew only 15 per cent.

"Dell is making dramatic gains in the very spot where its indirect competitors initially fostered their respective businesses - the large commercial business segment," according to Matt Sargent, senior analyst with Z-D Market Intelligence.

BRITISH TELECOM said last week that it will buy a 50 per cent stake in the UK subsidiary of the Excite Internet portal site for \$10m. The deal represents a further move by BT to develop its online business interests, beyond providing Internet access, into the revenue generating fields of advertising and online transactions. Earlier this month BT announced a joint venture with the UK division of another portal,

Yahoo, to provide Internet access and search tools without a subscription fee.

Under the new agreement, BT will use Excite's Internet technologies as well as its online marketing and advertising sales experience in return for aiding the portal to localise its products and services for the UK Internet market. Excite UK will also market BT's existing Click service as Excite Click - a pay as you go method of accessing the Internet which requires neither registration nor monthly services, but earns revenue from charging a premium on top of the cost of a normal local phone call.

IN WASHINGTON, Microsoft and the Department of Justice (DOJ) claimed that the purchase of Netscape by AOL supported their respective sides of the anti-

trust case. In out-of-court settlements, DOJ representatives portrayed the deal as a defensive "circling of the wagons" against Microsoft. Microsoft said the deal showed that the government was "five steps behind the industry" and that these emerging market forces undermined the basis of the In court, attention turned to documents and e-mails purporting to show Microsoft used unfair pressure to ensure that Internet Service Providers and Web site owners such as Disney and Cnet promoted its browser, rather than Netscape's.

"Disney will promote IE (and no other browser) as the client browser of choice for users of Disney content," said Disney's contract with Microsoft. Evidence also included an internal e-mail from a Microsoft executive who said that: "ISPs have to swear allegiance to IE for typi-

cally 75 per cent of all the browsers they distribute in order to get to the referral server."

The government released the documents in support of the testimony of expert witness economist Frederick Warren-Boulton's testimony, a former employee of the DOJ's anti-trust department.

WORK ON a computer language that enables people to communicate using their mother tongue with people who speak other languages, via the Internet, is being carried out by researchers in the Institute of Advanced Studies at Tokyo's United Nations University. More than 120 computer and linguistics experts are working on the Universal Networking Language (UNL). Instead of translating directly between languages, the software converts speech into UNL which can be "deconverted" into any language supported by the system. Users can check the accuracy of the UNL conversion by playing it back in their own language.

"It is not for translating Shakespeare or poetry or even a philosophical text," Professor Tarcisio Della Senta of Brazil, director of the Institute, said. He added that it would be useful for "logical texts" such as those used in science and commerce.

The first stage of the project, launched in April 1996, is to create conversion modules for 16 languages: the six official UN languages - Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish - as well as German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, Mongolian, Portuguese, Swahili and Thai. By 2005 the aim is for all languages that are used by UN members to be supported.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: I.T.

FAX: 0171 293 2505

VISUAL BASIC DEVELOPERS

Our client is a software house focused on developing innovative messaging and business intelligence software for worldwide corporate markets. They have developed a packaged tool that sits alongside any OLTP system looking for business exceptions and are pioneering the concept of automated messaging with a high quality product, supported by a young, dynamic, creative and experienced team - both technically and commercially.

Talented Analyst/Programmers are required with a minimum 2 years VB (ideally v5) and ideally an understanding of n-tier software development with a good understanding of SQL and OO coding techniques. Knowledge of ASP and Java would be advantageous.

For more information on this and other exciting opportunities please contact Grant on 0181 977 4848 or e-mail your CV to grant.whealan@esslimited.com

flag it Harlequin House, 7 High Street, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 8EE

TECHNICAL AUTHOR

This position is key to the production and management of all online and paper documentation. Our client is a software house focused on developing innovative messaging and business intelligence software for worldwide corporate markets. They have developed a packaged tool that sits alongside any OLTP system looking for business exceptions and are pioneering the concept of automated messaging with a high quality product, supported by a young, dynamic, creative and experienced team - both technically and commercially.

Ideally you possess knowledge of RoboHelp or a good knowledge of any other help authoring tool. Experience in the following is essential: - hlp, html and pdf files. The position will also require the production of technical reports for marketing purposes. The successful candidate will own document management in the company.

For more information on this and other exciting opportunities, please contact:

Grant on 0181 977 4848, or e-mail your CV to grant.whealan@esslimited.com

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To find out more, come and see us at the Fast Track IT Fair at the Midland County Show, Tiverton Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, CW10 8QH and 18th December, 10am and 4pm.



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new office offer an international capability, with the personal, friendly approach of a local company.

To find out how we can help you, come and talk to us at the Fast Track IT Fair at the Midland County Show, Tiverton Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, CW10 8QH and 18th December, 10am and 4pm.

We'll be on Stand 13 in the Alexandria Suite from 11am to 7pm. Alternatively, contact us on one of the numbers below.



HARRODS INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Manager, Point of Sale Systems

Harrods is a name few would fail to recognise, being one of the world's largest department stores famous for outstanding levels of customer service and an unparalleled range of merchandise. To maintain this reputation requires a dedicated team of staff in all areas and none more so than in Harrods Information Systems. The team provides a comprehensive service throughout the Harrods Group and plays an integral role in perfecting systems to sustain Harrods as the forerunner in luxury retail.

Due to a number of exciting new development projects, one in particular being the integration of a new Point of Sale System, a rare opportunity exists for the right individual. Based in either Knightsbridge or our Distribution Centre at Osterley, Middlesex.

The ideal individual will have...

* a minimum of 10 years experience implementing POS in large retail stores * a minimum of 10 years hands on project management experience * a track record of individual accomplishments in the IT area * demonstrated leadership of cross functional teams * technical knowledge of operating systems, databases and programming * the ability to gain the confidence of executive management * knowledge and previous experience of the retailing industry.

This role demands a high level of experience, energy and enthusiasm. If you feel that this outstanding opportunity is for you and you meet the above criteria, please forward your C.V. with a covering letter indicating your salary requirements to Paula Fallowfield, Deputy Director, Human Resources - Harrods, Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge, SW1X 7XL.

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IT TRAINER

to 25k + car + benefits

Armstrong Consultants, based in Hertfordshire, is a highly successful software house specialising in accounting and bespoke software. A current vacancy exists for an experienced finance software trainer.

Responsible for the implementation of finance software and training new and existing users. Minimum 2 years IT training experience and knowledge of Windows '95 essential. Good understanding of accounting principles necessary.

The role will include travel and overnight stays.

Apply in writing to: Joanne Kerrigan, Armstrong Consultants Ltd, New Barns Mill, Cotomill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 2HA

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*Microsoft/PC Developers

*Visual Basic *Powerbuilder *Delphi *HTML, Java, etc.

*Mainframe

*DBS, CICS, COBOL, VSAM, DB2 *IMS *LINC

The successful individuals will ideally possess a degree and a minimum of two years experience.

CVs to PO BOX 21015, Islington, London N1 2XQ

AUCKEY ASSOCIATES

SENIOR CAD TECHNICIAN



Expanding Software Company

requires skilled IT staff to fill various positions. The successful candidate will ideally hold a degree and a minimum of two years experience with a proven track record in any of the following:

*Powerbuilder *Microsoft Visual Basic

*Unix *C, C++

*Client Server *Oracle Financials

CVs to Tom Spouse,

Fdi, Longueville House, South Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 6SB

MANGALA Software Consultants Ltd provides consultancy and off-shore development service to a wide range of clients and requires:

Oracle Applic. Specialists/Consultants Candidates with min. 2 yrs exp. with strong business skills and extensive technical expertise in one or more of the following: Design4/2000, Developer/2000, Forms 3.0, Pro*C, Oracle Application. Salary commensurate with skills. Applications with CV to 12 Radnor Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BS or e-mail: mangala@mangala.co.uk

IT APPOINTMENTS continue overleaf



Comms & Control

UMTS and GSM Technology

South East/West

This company is set to be a world leader in UMTS and 2nd Generation GSM technology. They are pro-active, requiring a variety of skills and experience. They are also interested in Sales, R&D, Project Management and Consultancy. You must have ideally come from a mobile communications background with a Degree and at least 3 years relevant experience. However a bright broad-based individual may also apply.

Ref: JAS/BSB

DSP Research

Cambridge, London and Bristol

Does the opportunity to explore the realms of DSP technology within the mobile communications industry interest you? The project is set to involve the design and development of a new generation of mobile phones and components within the UK. To make history you will need a PH.D. or a 2:1/2:2.1/BEng with proven DSP experience, preferably speech/voice recognition, algorithms, fusion techniques where C/C++ or any electronic design language is used. Please apply with full details, resume and a copy of your CV to my attention.

Ref: JAS/JBS

The Nutty Professor!

South East/West

This is a small part-time role involving within our client's laboratories exploring the outer boundaries of various scientific technologies, as a Research, Development Engineer or Consultant. You don't need to undergo a major transformation, but you do need a good Engineering Degree and at least 3 years' experience in Embedded C or C++ or Matrix Manipulation Software.

You might be surprised to learn that this is a part-time role, with a 20% commitment, 1 day per week, plus relocation and pension.

Ref: JAS/JBS

SWP RECRUITMENT

Listen...

There's a quiet revolution going on.

Whitman-Hart has come to the UK! Never heard of us? That's because you haven't been listening.

We're Whitman-Hart. Founded in 1984 as a specialist provider of AS400 services, we are now one of the USA's fastest-growing Information Technology (IT) consulting companies. Whitman-Hart went public in May 1996 on the NASDAQ exchange and were rated by the Wall Street Journal as fourth in its pick of the top ten initial public offerings of 1996; we were also featured by *Forbes Magazine* in 1997 and ranked 56th out of 300 selected companies in America in the 5 year average return on equity.

Whitman-Hart provides enterprise-wide solutions that start with a client's business plan and go all the way through construction, implementation, and training — not just for technology professionals, but for end-users as well.

Because of extraordinary demand, an exceptional range of career opportunities in a variety of IT solutions and platforms have become available in Whitman-Hart's new and rapidly expanding London office. We are primarily looking for:

JD Edwards® implementors with either a functional, technical or project management background or ONE WORLD training or experience

SAP R/3® implementors with configuration knowledge of any modules, ASAP programming skills, Basis system administrators and project managers

PeopleSoft® implementors with either a functional, technical or project management background

If you are an information technology professional, committed to excellence, eager for challenging assignments and possess significant IT experience in a business setting, we would like to hear from you. In exchange, we offer outstanding salaries and benefits, including bonus plan, stock options, laptops and training. Please send your CV to:

All Gilani, Recruitment Manager
Whitman-Hart, Ltd.
3 Shortlands, Hammersmith, London W6 8DA
Tel: 0181-946-0704 Fax: 0181-741-9413
E-Mail: all.gilani@whitman-hart.com

For more information about Whitman-Hart and our career opportunities, visit our Web site: www.whitman-hart.com



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NETWORK SUPPORT & MESSAGING ENGINEERS

SENIOR NETWORK ENGINEERS

Manchester/London/Basingstoke/Poole

You should have 3+ years experience within a multi-server environment. Ideally a MCP and well on route to MCSE or Novell equivalent. The ability to work unsupervised within projects is essential along with taking ownership of server level problem resolution.

FIELD NETWORK ENGINEERS

Basingstoke/Poole

You should have 1 - 2 years desktop hardware and software plus 1 years of network/TCP/IP routing exposure. A min of 1 MCP/CNA with commitment to certification route advantageous.

MESSAGING ENGINEERS

Poole

You should have experience of either Mail, cc:Mall and Exchange from an administrator viewpoint. Previous experience within a messaging environment with Microsoft and Lotus qualifications are advantageous.

To apply for the advertised position send your full CV with current salary details quoting reference number SS24 to:

GEORGINA COLE
SILVERSANDS COMPUTERS
3-5 ALBANY PARK
CAEOT LANE
POOLE
BH17 7BX

Alternatively, e-mail: georgina.cole@silversands.co.uk

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London based magazine requires a person experienced in print media production, including design, layout and page layout and assessment.

If you are degree qualified with design training and 5 years management experience in print media production, please apply before end Dec 98 to:

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211 HAMPTON ROAD,

HOUNSLOW TW5 1NL

Salary £25,000pa

Apply with CV to:

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Carerline (UK) Ltd

Aaron House

6 Bardolph Road

Richmond

Surrey TW8 2LS

Salary £240k depending on experience.

Contact Tom Smith at

Networking People

01392 499488

Fax: 01392 498008

or email: toms@npuk.co.uk

or email: tom.smith@npuk.co.uk

HOLLOWAY (08705 050007) ♦ Holloway road/Archers Antz, 1pm. 3.05pm, 5pm, 7.10pm. Blade 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm. Dead Man's Curve 9.15pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 8.35pm & Only 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm. The Negotiator 1.55pm, 5.00pm, 8.15pm. Out of Sight 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Ronin 6.05pm, 8.40pm. Rounders 1.55pm, 6.40pm. Rush Hour 1.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.30pm, 4.20pm, 6.15pm, 6.45pm. There's Something About Mary 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The Truman Show 1.10pm, 3.40pm.

ILFORD ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Gants Hill Antz 12.55pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.20pm. Blade 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 8.15pm & Only 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm. Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Rush Hour Thu 8.30pm.

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-8020409) BR: Kingston Antz 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Out of Sight 2.10pm, 5.20pm, 8.05pm. Ronin 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Rush Hour Thu 8.30pm.

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) ♦ Highgate Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm. Blade 5.45pm, 8.15pm. Mulan: Sight 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm. Ronin 6.30pm, 8.35pm.

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Ry Antz 12.20pm, 4pm, 5.50pm, 7.40pm. Elizabeth 3.50pm, 5pm. Ronin 6.05pm, 8.15pm. 9.15pm. Out of Sight 1.45pm, 6.25pm, 9pm. A Perfect Murder 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm. Ronin 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm. Snake Eyes 9.30pm.

PURLEY ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Antz 1.55pm, 8.25pm. Out of Sight 5.10pm, 8pm. Ronin 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Rush Hour Thu 8.30pm.

PUTNEY ABC (0870-9020401) BR: Putney Bridge BR: Purley Antz 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 5.15pm. Elizabeth 5.15pm. The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm. Out of Sight 1.45pm, 6.25pm, 9pm. A Perfect Murder 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm. Ronin 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm. Snake Eyes 9.30pm.

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR/E: Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3.45pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm. Elizabeth 2.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm.

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/E: Richmond Antz 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm. Elizabeth 2.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm.

RIMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Rimford Antz 2.55pm. Blade 8.25pm. Out of Sight 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Ronin 2.20pm. The Wisdom of Crocodiles 2.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR/E: Rimford Antz 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm. Blade 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm. The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 3.15pm, 6.25pm If Only 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm. Les Misérables 6.05pm, 8.05pm. The Negotiator 1.45pm, 5.05pm, 8.15pm. Out of Sight 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Ronin 12.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm.

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MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

1.27-1.39MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
9.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark
Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45
Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00
Lemacq Live. 12.00 The Breeze-
block. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 -
6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2

(88-90MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake
Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.
12.00 John Inverdale. 2.00 Ed
Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00
Georgia Fame. 8.00 Big Band Spe-
cial. 8.30 The New Jazz Standards.
9.30 The Rock 'n' Roll Years. 10.00
Richard Allinson. 12.00 Lynn Par-
sons. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-94MHz FM).
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime
Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Opera in Action.
4.45 Music Machine.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. American
composer John Adams visits Britain
to conduct the London Symphony
Orchestra in a blockbuster pro-
gramme of his own music, as part of
the Barbican Centre's 'Inventing
America' season. Highlights from
Adams's second opera, 'The Death
of Klinghoffer', are complemented by
a new piano concerto written for
Emanuel Ax. The work is inspired by
the sound of music on 1920s piano
rolls. Given earlier this month in the
Barbican, Jeremy Sanford Sylvan
(baritone), Jeremy White (bass), Lon-
don Symphony Chorus and Orches-
tra/John Adams. John Adams: The
Death of Klinghoffer (excerpts); Cen-
tury Rolls (first UK performance).
8.45 Postscript. Five monologues
about women. 1: 'Mrs Birthington',
Played by Geraldine McEwan. The
new-found independence of her
handicapped daughter threatens Mrs
Birthington's very raison d'être.
9.25 Brahms: Piano Quartet No 3 in
C minor, Op 60. Pro Arte Piano
Quartet: Kenneth Sillito (violin).

PICK OF THE DAY

WE'RE ALL glad that apartheid is over and hope that things go well for the nascent democracy, but Snapshots from the New South Africa (11am-11.45pm) is so glad some it takes the edge off your fervour - Thembu Mutch is much more interested in piety than reporting, asserting that "mutual respect and humanity" is a central tenet of South African life and, at a women's building

project, "Women are rebuilding in practical terms! They're making bricks!"
Songlines (3.30pm RA) is all about the origins of well-known songs, presented by David Stafford, formerly of Going Places. Today, he discusses "Idle Moor Bah Tat" with - wait for it - Richard Whiteley and Bill Oddie (right). Roll on oblivion.

ROBERT HANKS



Robert Smissen (voca), Stephen Orton (cello), Hamish Milne (piano). (F)

10.00 Voices. 11.00 Hate Music Songs by Bernstein and Copland per-
formed by Catrin Wyn-Davies (so-
prano) and Iain Burnside (piano).

Copland: Little Horses; Zion's Walls; Long Time Ago. Bernstein: Two Love Songs. Copland: The World Feels Dusty; Going to Heaven; Heart We Will Forgive Him (Poems by Emily Dickinson). Bernstein: Hate Music; Piccole Serenate. Copland: Vocalise; Bernstein: La bonne cuisine; A Simple Song.

10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall rifle through some recent releases and wrestle over some weird and wonderful sounds in this all-CD edition.

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Josquin. (R)

1.00 - 8.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92-94MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

8.00 NEWS: Start the Week.

9.45 Serial: Barrow's Boys.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: Snapshots from the New South Africa. See Pick of the Day.

11.30 Nemesis.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Round Britain Quiz.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 NEWS: Afternoon Play; Life's Little Ironies.

3.00 Money Box Live: 0171 580

4444.

3.30 Songlines. See Pick of the Day.

4.45 Mercer Preece RA.

4.40 NEWS: The Food Programme.

4.40 Turning World.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.35 Front Row. Mark Lawson pre-
sents the night's arts show.

7.45 Still Waters. Part 16 by Cally

Phillips. Kate's birthday looms and

Charlie has a proposal. Meanwhile,

an encounter with the mysterious

Vikla has a profound effect on Dou-

glas, and Franka Callaghan has big

plans for Joanne. With Ann Scott

Jones, Emma Currie and Liam Bran-
nan. Director David Jackson Young.

8.00 NEWS: Managing Life. Four

programmes in which Ed Stark

granted unprecedented access to a

Scottish jail, talk to life-sentence

prisoners in Glengesh: 3: Immates

speak about how their sentences

have affected family relationships.

8.30 Analysis: 'Europe's Pink Car-
pet'. Across Europe, the Centre-Left

is riding high. But does it have poli-
cies for a world facing financial cri-
sis? David Walker asks whether Blair,

Jospin and Schroeder have anything

in common, and how long their brotherly love will last.

8.00 NEWS: Nature: The Big Sleep.

Mark Carwardine investigates the

science behind body clocks, natural

rhythms and sleep, and discovers a

nightrig which hibernates for several

weeks in a dark cave, a lungfish

which sleeps in a cocoon of mud for

four years or more, and the cicadas

which emerge simultaneously after

17 years underground.

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Pax-
man sets the cultural agenda for the

week with guests including journalist

Simon Heffer, who has written a bi-
ography of Enoch Powell.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another

World. In Pat Barker's new novel, a

fractious family and a dying soldier

reveal the past's power to haunt and

distort the present. Abridged by

Doreen Stal, read by Robert

Glenister (6/10).

11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. Terry Wogan

speaks on behalf of BBC Children in

Need.

11.02 Fatherland. (R)

11.30 Aerial Views.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: A Man in Full.

1.00 As World Service.

1.30 World News.

2.55 Shipping Forecast.

5.45 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 6.00 Fermany Today.

RADIO 4 LW (19kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00

- 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast.

5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

2.30 - 8.35 Test Match Special.

RADIO 5 LIVE (89.9MHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday Show.

1.00 Rusco and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Family Affairs. A series which examines the psychological relationships within sporting families. The Trains are a family of canoeists gearing up for their fifth Olympic Games, but has sporting success brought them closer or caused rivalry and envy?

8.00 Trevor Brookings Football Forum. Trevor Brookings is out on the road this week with a panel of football personalities, tackling questions and comments from a live studio audience.

10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today, including at 1030 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 1100 a late news briefing.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.1-100.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 6.00 Henry Kelly.

12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight.

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.

6.00 Evening Concert: Bach: Bran-
denburg Concerto No 5 in D.

BWV1050. Scottish

Ensemble/Jonathan Rees. Mackenzie

Scottish Rhapsody No 2 (Burns).

BBC Scottish/SO/Martin Brabbins.

Mackenzie/Pirotta/Malcolm Stew-
art (violin). Royal Scottish National

Orchestra/David Davies.

Mendelssohn: Symphony No 3 in A

minor (Scottish). Hanover Band/Roy

Goodman. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00

Concerto. 3.0 - 6.0 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (125.1-128MHz MW)

6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ

Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00

Bobby Hahn FM only Harriet Scott

from 6.45. 7.30 Harriet Scott. 10.00

Mark Forrest. 1.00 James Merritt.

4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(19kHz LW)

1.00 Newshes. 1.30 Seven Days.

1.45 Wood, Guts and Brass. 2.00

Newsday. 2.30 On Screen. 5.00

World News. 3.05 Business Report.

3.15 Sports. 3.30 The Idea of the

City. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO

8.00 The Breakfast Show. 8.00

Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Loraine Kel-
ly. 2.00 Anna Raabau. 4.00 Peter

Deeley. 5.00 Sports Zone. 8.00

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